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Japan

U.S. Official Urges Opening of Rice Market

OW1804121190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1035 GMT
18 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—A senior U.S. Government official Wednesday reiterated Washington's calls for wider access to Japan's rice market, stressing that successful completion of the Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations this December depends largely on settlement of the issue. During talks with Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Tomio Yamamoto, U.S. Undersecretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder said the Japanese would benefit from greater foreign access to Japan's rice market.

Yamamoto responded by saying that his hands were tied on the issue by a unanimous Diet resolution against allowing foreign rice into Japan, emphasizing the Government's inability to comply with U.S. demands.

Crowder hinted at the possibility of an unofficial visit by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter later this year by saying that the U.S. farm chief may take advantage of his summer vacation to visit his daughter and son-in-law who currently reside in Japan.

Marriott Corporation To Enter Japanese Market

OW1804125890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1217 GMT
18 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Marriott Corp., the world's largest prepared meal supply company based in the United States, will expand into the Japanese market in partnership with two Japanese partners, it was announced Wednesday. The Bethesda, Maryland-based company has agreed with Royal Co., a restaurant chain, and Sumitomo Corp., a major trading firm, to form a joint venture in Tokyo to launch a lunch service business.

The new firm, Royal Marriott and SC Corp., will be capitalized at 200 million yen and 45 percent owned by Royal, 35 percent by Marriott, and 20 percent by Sumitomo. The joint venture will be established in June to supply prepared meals to Sumitomo-affiliated companies, hospitals, and schools, officials of the Japanese partners said. They said the new firm aims to pull in annual sales of 3.5 trillion yen in 10 years.

Marriott operates 4,100 outlets in North America, supplying prepared meals to about two million people. It operates food supply and lodging businesses in 17 countries with annual sales amounting to about 1 trillion yen. Marriott also plans to operate restaurants at the Kansai International Airport now under construction near Osaka, western Japan.

Appeal to G-7 on Yen Policy To Be Renewed

OW1804120490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1104 GMT
18 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Japan will renew its appeal for policy coordination to support the yen at a Group of Seven (G-7) meeting expected to be held in Washington in early May if the yen continues to weaken, a government source said Wednesday. "A further fall of the yen would increase inflationary pressures in Japan, but also harm the process of rectifying the world's external imbalances," the source said.

When the source spoke to reporters about the yen's temporal dip below the 160 yen level in Tokyo on Wednesday, he said it was attributable to speculative purchases of dollars before the release of U.S. trade data for February later in the day.

The yen has been weakening recently against other currencies, particularly against the dollar, although finance ministers and central bank governors from the seven major industrial nations agreed at their last meeting in Paris in early April that the yen's decline is "undesirable."

Currency dealers have said the yen's weakness will last for a while because demand for dollars is strong due to expectations of higher U.S. interest rates and a treasury securities auction in May. Increasing tension between the Kremlin and Lithuania is also cited as a factor behind the yen's weakness.

Ministry Official Says Dollar Demand Falling

OW1804122490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1024 GMT
18 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—A senior Ministry of Finance (MOF) official said Wednesday demand for dollars has been shrinking despite the U.S. currency's temporary rise above 160 yen in Tokyo earlier in the day. "It seems that dollar buying is decreasing," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

His remark was interpreted to mean speculative dollar buying was on the decrease. He said, "The yen is moving within a narrow range," an indication the Japanese currency might not decline further against the dollar. The U.S. currency closed the day's Tokyo interbank trading little changed at 159.87 yen after rising as high as 160.18 yen at one stage.

Hong Kong Official Urges Residency Rights

OW1804105990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1021 GMT
18 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—A senior Hong Kong Government official said here Wednesday that Japan was approached by the British Government to provide residency rights to Hong Kong residents who wish to emigrate from the British colony. "I know that the approach was made to the Japanese Government...I

understand the request is still under consideration," Chief Secretary Sir David Ford, the top administrative branch official in Hong Kong, told the Japan National Press Club. But Ford added that he also understood the difficulty in the Japanese system of responding to such a British initiative.

A Japanese Foreign Ministry source acknowledged that it was asked about the procedures related to the matter "some time ago," but refused to comment on the details. "We (Japan and Hong Kong) know that it is unrealistic to say how many Hong Kong residents Japan must accept... It is not a major issue between Hong Kong and Japan," the source said.

"What is at stake is for Japan to support Hong Kong to retain continued confidence in its future. Assistance in investments in Hong Kong is the most constructive way of showing such confidence," the sources said.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Government has recently proposed issuing 50,000 British passports to key Hong Kong residents and their families.

Francis Maude, British Foreign Office minister with special responsibility for Hong Kong, said recently that nations around the world are responding positively to British requests that they grant passports to Hong Kong residents working for local companies. The move is widely considered as an attempt to stem the flood of immigrants and the brain drain of skilled Hong Kong workers from the colony, which has a population of 5.7 million before it is returned to China in 1997.

Stressing that there are signs of confidence that Hong Kong and China will keep pragmatic, mutually beneficial relations, Ford expressed his optimism about the future of Hong Kong after 1997. There was "no shortage of international interest in Hong Kong," Ford said, citing opportunities in such long-term projects as the 16-billion U.S. dollar project to build a new airport and establishment of a related transport infrastructure, as well as the world's largest cable television network.

Ford said Japan's interest in Hong Kong's commercial and construction industry was encouraging. Japan is the second-largest investor in Hong Kong after the United States, with 900 million U.S. dollars in total assets.

On the Basic Law recently approved by Beijing which provides the basic framework for government in Hong Kong after China gains control over it, Ford said people will be confident about it and can look to the future with certainty. Hong Kong's confidence in its future was shaken by last year's military crackdown on prodemocracy demonstrators in Beijing.

Ford, who arrived here on Monday, will meet leaders in economic and political circles before leaving Japan on Saturday.

Moscow Urged Against Sanctions on Lithuania

*OW1804055590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0509 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Japan urged the Soviet Union on Wednesday not to impose economic sanctions against its rebel republic of Lithuania. Chief Cabinet Minister Misoji Sakamoto told a regular news conference that the Japanese Government is concerned about moves to impose sanctions and urged further dialogue between Moscow and the Baltic republic.

"Japan does not think forceful measures will produce a solution" over the independence issue, Sakamoto said.

Moscow said on Tuesday it was cutting natural gas supplies to Lithuania.

Government Suggests 'Prudence'

*OW1804122890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1214 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Japan sent a message of concern to the Soviet Union on Wednesday in the wake of reports that Moscow plans an economic blockade against its breakaway Republic of Lithuania. Foreign Ministry officials said the Government's message was conveyed to Moscow in a meeting between Kazuhiko Togo, director of the ministry's Soviet Union Division, and Soviet Embassy Counsellor Vasiliy Dobrovoljskiy.

Togo, reiterating a statement issued earlier in the day by Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto, called on the Kremlin to exercise "prudence" and said punitive measures are not a suitable way of resolving the problem. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has threatened to impose an economic blockade on Lithuania if it refuses to disavow its March 11 declaration of independence.

Togo, noting that the Lithuanian Legislature is expected to reply to Gorbachev's warnings on Thursday, told Dobrovoljskiy that Japan strongly hopes to see the two sides waste no time in entering into a dialogue.

Dobrovoljskiy replied that, to begin with, the Lithuanian affair is an internal matter of the Soviet Union, which intends to deal with it within the bounds of its own constitutional framework. He said Moscow also wishes to employ dialogue as the means of resolving the affair, but added that the Lithuanian side has not been receptive to that approach.

Togo welcomed the Soviet emphasis on dialogue to resolve what he said is a problem involving the question of "ethnic self-determination."

Mitsubishi To Help Papermaking Plant in USSR

*OW1804105290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0925 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. (MHI) said Wednesday it has been awarded three separate contracts totaling about 20 billion yen to supply paper manufacturing plants to Indonesia and the Soviet Union. The company won a contract with P.T. Pabrik Kertas Tjiwi Kimia of Indonesia for a plant with the capacity to produce 575 tons of high-quality paper a day. The plant, to be set up in Mojekerto, near Surabaya, will go into operation in November 1991.

At the same time, MHI has received an order to export a similar plant to another Indonesian company, P.T. Aspex Paper. The plant, to be located in Cileungsi in the suburbs of Jakarta, will begin operation in October 1991, with daily production targeted at 280 tons.

The new plants are expected to help Indonesia boost its paper supply. In view of ever-growing demand for paper and pulp, the Southeast Asian country has been stepping up efforts to boost its self-supply of such products.

The company has also been asked by the Soviet Government to assist in enhancing the production capacity of two paper manufacturing machines at the Solikamsk Plant from the current 360 tons a day each to 460 tons.

MHI, the top maker of paper-producing machines, accepted a total of 56 billion yen worth of contracts to supply paper/pulp manufacturing facilities in Fiscal 1989, ended March 31.

French Defense Minister Arrives in Tokyo

*OW1804055890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0457 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement arrived in Tokyo on Wednesday for talks with Japanese Government officials.

Chevenement will meet Japan's State Minister for Defense Yozo Ishikawa later in the day and hold a press conference on Thursday. He is staying through Saturday. Chevenement is the first French defense minister to visit Japan since World War II.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Mexico 18 Apr

*OW1804083990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0748 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama left Japan on Wednesday for Mexico to attend an unofficial ministerial meeting to prepare for a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Talks by the end of this year. The meeting, to be held in Puerto Vallarta, a seaside resort in Mexico for three days starting Wednesday, is the last high-level meeting of both developed and developing countries

prior to a ministerial conference on the Uruguay Round in Brussels from December 3-7.

Besides representatives from 29 countries and areas, including U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, Arthur Dunkel, head of the 96-nation General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) will attend the meeting. The participants are expected to discuss, among other things, tightening of GATT rules and schedule toward the end of the four-year trade round this year.

Nakayama is scheduled to come home on Sunday.

Komeito Declares 'Freeze' on Coalition Talks

*OW1604051290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0437 GMT
16 Apr 90*

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida, moving to distance the centrist party from the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), declared Monday a unilateral "freeze" on talks to forge a four-party opposition coalition government. Blaming Komeito's setback in February's Diet elections on a failure to make clear its policies, Ishida, 59, told its annual national convention that the party will revise its platform to clarify its role as the leading centrist party.

The need for a "third pole" in addition to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the JSP, the leading opposition party, is greater than ever before, Ishida told the party delegates.

The Buddhist-affiliated Komeito lost 11 of its 57 seats in the elections for the 512-seat House of Representatives. But Ishida signalled that the party intends to use its 21 seats in the opposition-dominated House of Councillors as a casting vote.

A new action plan, proposed for adoption Monday afternoon, says Komeito will exercise its swing vote when the LDP and JSP are in confrontation as a "check" to criticize cooperation between the LDP and JSP, and to press policies where Komeito has taken the initiative.

Ishida said a new party organ will propose changes in the party platform later this year in order to clarify the role of centrism in an age where the debate between liberalism and socialism is outdated.

"In Western societies the Keynesian school of mixed economies is in need of major change. A new basic concept is called for to realize a new welfare society and protection of the global environment," Ishida said.

The platform was last revised in 1970, five years after the party was established with support of Sokka Gakkai, a lay Buddhist organization.

Ishida criticized the JSP for failing to resolve differences in four major policy areas—the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, the status of the Self-Defense Forces, relations with North and South Korea, and nuclear power.

"We are not interested in reopening (coalition) talks that have no content," Ishida told the convention. "At the current stage we have no choice but to freeze discussions on a four-party coalition." The other two parties involved in the talks are the centrist Democratic Socialist Party, which has also cooled toward a coalition following its own poor showing in the February polls, and the United Social Democratic Party.

Ishida added that Komeito is not considering "easily" forming a coalition with the LDP.

He also denounced a proposal to revise the election system by a government advisory group as being biased in favor of the ruling party. The proposal calls for replacing electoral districts of three to five seats with single-seat districts in a scheme in which 60 percent of the seats would go to candidates getting the most votes, and 40 percent would be decided by proportional representation according to the portion of votes garnered by each party. The system is expected to favor the LDP and JSP.

Ishida called for redrawing current voting districts, which have failed to keep up with population shifts to cities, and voiced support for a system in which the House of Representatives election emphasizes choice of party, and the House of Councillors election is a choice of individual politicians.

Kaifu Asks Government Help Paying for Campaigns

*OW1704061390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0451 GMT
17 Apr 90*

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Tuesday he advocates making available government funds for political campaigns in order to put an end to money-guzzling election practices. Political fund-raising should be conducted by political parties, rather than by individuals, in order to make Japanese politics more issue-oriented, Kaifu said in a taped interview scheduled for broadcast later in the day.

"If political parties are at the center of political fund-raising, than the style of politics will change," Kaifu said. He said a political party law aimed at providing government assistance for political campaigns should be discussed along with proposals to review the election system.

Kaifu has declared that political reform is one of the most important domestic issues facing his cabinet.

Group Aims To Infuse JSP With People Power

*OW1804023790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0131 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[By Jocelyn Ford]

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—By most measures, Tadatoshi Akiba is an unusual politician. A former

professor at Tufts University in Massachusetts, the 47-year-old mathematician has spent nearly half of his life in the United States, and boasts an eclectic resume that includes stints as a television newscaster, business consultant, and simultaneous interpreter. He is also a life-long peace activist.

Akiba's latest challenge: to infuse the unionist-dominated Japan Socialist Party (JSP)—and Japanese politics—with people power. "Basically, we have to make sure decisions are made democratically," Akiba says.

Akiba's views are shared by a small but growing group of JSP reformists newly elected to the legislature who are seeking to quell dissatisfaction with national politics voiced in the February general election for the House of Representatives, the lower house of the Diet. Calling themselves the "New Wave," this loose alliance of 28 JSP rookies has two things in common—contempt for clannish, conformist politicians, and their resolve to make changes. And they have the support of top party leaders.

JSP Chairwoman Takako Doi has said the newcomers have the energy and experience needed to help the party end its 35-year role as the brake on the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), and instead climb behind the steering wheel.

When voters went to the polls in February, they sent a powerful message of dissatisfaction about the ruling party by nearly doubling the number of lower house seats for the JSP, which is the leading opposition party. But their message to the JSP was similarly critical, say political analysts. The opposition parties were unable to deprive the LDP of a comfortable majority in the 512-seat lower house—despite its scandal-marred image.

Of the 139 candidates who won seats for the JSP in the lower chamber election, 59 were entering the Diet for the first time, many of them coming from nontraditional backgrounds in law, journalism, and grassroots activism. To Akiba and fellow New Waver Yuriiko Hase, the results are a mandate for far-reaching changes that could impact the very fabric of Japanese politics and society.

"We were born after World War II and were weaned on democracy, but what happens in parliament is completely different from what we learned," says Hase, 42, the owner of a drinking establishment who is an activist in a citizens' group. "There is no true debate in the Diet, it's no wonder voters are so uninterested in politics," she said.

Already, the new JSP Diet members' group has begun to make waves. At its official launching March 22, members pledged support for environmentalism by vowing to use recycled paper and avoid disposable chopsticks. They took another jab at the status quo by agreeing to drop the title "sensei"—a standard honorific that elevates lawmakers to a higher social plateau than their constituents.

The group has also offered dissent. In an unprecedented move, 20 members of the New Wave submitted a counterproposal to the JSP's action program at the national convention held from April 3 to 5. When told they would not be permitted to distribute the four-page document in the conference hall, the parliamentarians surprised conference organizers by handing leaflets to the 600 convention-goers at the door.

The future of the group is highly uncertain. In a system where seniority reigns supreme, the New Wavers—many of whom are still in their 40s—find themselves rubbing against the grain of tradition. "If they try to break down the system which grants authority in proportion to the length of time in office, they are bound to create friction," says Shinobu Hanzaka, a reporter for the SHAKAI SHIMPO, the party newspaper.

And the old guard is dubious about whether the group is a constructive force or a destructive one. Too much dissent may divide the JSP, say those who have witnessed times when the wide spectrum of political views split the party in two. "If they make a mistake, the party will fall to pieces," warned one party veteran.

Indications are, though, that the JSP is becoming increasingly tolerant of diversity. "In the past, JSP factions would not have allowed newcomers to form such a group," says Makoto Tanabe, the newly elected JSP vice chairman and a main influence in pulling the party toward a more social democratic position. "The party is changing because it has to change to keep up with the times," Tanabe said.

Ishigaki Island Land Transactions Limited

OW1404030290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0214 GMT
14 Apr 90

[Text] Naha, April 14 KYODO—The Okinawa Prefectural Government tightened restrictions on land transactions in all areas on Ishigaki Island Saturday to prevent environmental destruction, officials said. Land transactions involving more than 2,000 square meters must be reported to authorities starting from Saturday. Till now, such declarations were required for land transactions of 5,000 or more square meters.

The 221 square kilometer coral island, located 2,000 kilometers southwest of Tokyo, has been targeted for development as a marine sport resort. Real estate interests have been active since around 1988 in the purchase of waterfront sites on the island with 76 cases of land transactions of more than 5,000 square meters being reported in 1989.

An Okinawa Prefectural Government official said the prefecture suffers from a lack of land because land with high utility value is used by U.S. military forces. "Land prices in Okinawa Prefecture have been rising because of speculation and Ishigaki Island is no exception," he said.

Panel Urges Kaifu To Deregulate Market

OW1804085790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0810 GMT
18 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Advisers to Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu called Wednesday for reforms of Japan's social and economic structure to promote a more vigorous welfare society and step up the nation's contribution to the international community.

The Ad Hoc Council on Administrative Reform also urged the Government to lift regulations so as to facilitate free and fair competition based on the market economy and reduce prices of consumer products in Japan to the levels in other industrialized countries. The proposals were contained in a report worked out by the seven-member council after nearly three years of discussions on administrative reforms. Bumpei Otsuki, head of the council and a senior business leader, handed the report to Kaifu.

Otsuki, also honorary chairman of the Japan Federation of Employers Associations, said Japan should reform its socioeconomic structure to cope with a rapidly changing world. Japan should aim at building a vigorous welfare society, which is dynamic, fair, and comfortable to live in, and at contributing positively to the international community, the report said.

It listed five tasks for the Government to achieve by the year 2000, including making Japan more open to the world, solving the land and housing problem, and improving the quality of Japanese life. Of these tasks, the council asked the Government to give priority to the land and housing problem and trade frictions with other countries.

On the land and housing problem, the report called for a comprehensive review of land taxes, promotion of effective and systematic use of land, and limits on private property rights.

Regarding trade friction, it proposed fully opening the Japanese market and harmonizing Japan's economic and social system and business practices with those of the outside world.

The report, however, failed to propose the abolition of trade controls on foods, particularly rice, long a target of overseas criticism. Instead, it recommended the introduction of competitive principles into agriculture in order to enhance productivity and bring farm product prices to acceptable levels.

The council was earlier reported planning to recommend lifting of the food control law but dropped the proposal due to strong opposition by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, according to government sources.

In its recommendations on Japan's foreign policy, the report said Japan should contribute creatively to establish a new international order for world peace and prosperity. Japan must contribute not only financially

but also in terms of human resources, ideas, and initiatives and participate actively in the solution of global problems, it said.

The council urged the Government to continue increasing Japan's Official Development Assistance to developing countries and step up efforts to see that the aid is efficiently and effectively distributed.

Concerning the problem of supporting Japan's aging society, the report said the so-called public burden ratio—the ratio of taxes plus social service premiums to national income—should be kept under 50 percent by 2020, when the number of elderly is expected to peak. The report also proposed putting more stress on public investment to improve social infrastructure.

In the end, the report warned, if Japan fails to carry out restructuring and ease economic frictions with other countries, it may become internationally isolated.

In order to realize the social and economic reforms proposed by the council, the report urged the Government to do its utmost to restore public trust in politics. It proposed the setting up of a new advisory council to further promote administrative reform. The Ad Hoc Council, established in April 1987, will be disbanded Thursday, officials said.

Business Leaders Voice Opinions

*OW1804131490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1152 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Business leaders voiced mixed opinions about an administrative reform proposal made Wednesday by advisers to Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu. Rokuro Ishikawa, president of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the proposal leaves some problems because it is not in line with the goal of the proposed reform—realizing a small government—on some points, including the advisable level of burdens on taxpayers.

The Ad Hoc Council on Administrative Reform, in a report published Wednesday, called for reforming Japan's social and economic structure to promote a more vigorous welfare society and to step up the nation's greater contribution to the international community. The report said the so-called public burden ratio—the ratio of taxes plus social insurance premiums to national income—should be kept to 50 percent by 2020, when the number of the elderly is expected to peak.

Takashi Ishihara, head of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives, said it is questionable whether the proposal is feasible. He said he expects Prime Minister Kaifu to exhibit strong leadership in implementing the proposal.

Takuji Matsuzawa, chairman of the Administrative Reform Promotion Council of the powerful Federation

of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), urged the Government to try easing the taxpayers' burden as far below the 50 percent level as possible.

Spring Wage 'Offensive' Brings Higher Raises

*OW1704143590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1301 GMT
17 Apr 90*

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Labor unions at major Japanese companies have so far won wage hikes averaging 5.08 percent in this year's spring labor offensive, about 0.8 percentage point above last year's level, an employers' group said Tuesday.

The Japan Federation of Employers Associations said a survey of 325 big companies found that 266 firms wound up their pay hike negotiations with labor unions with agreements on an average monthly increase of 14,768 yen from a year earlier. The 5.08 percent hike, however, is below the 6 percent level the labor side has sought in their "shunto" or spring labor offensive in pursuit of higher wages.

Wage hikes averaging more than 6 percent were reported in the newspaper, machinery/metal, commerce/distribution, private railways, hotel, and information/telecommunications industries, according to the survey. By contrast, the average pay hike was below 5 percent in the steel and private broadcasting sectors, although the hike of 4.73 percent at 14 steelmakers is bigger than last year's 2.47 percent.

The survey did not cover banks and other financial institutions, areas in which wage increases are usually larger than in other sectors.

Eiji Suzuki, president of the federation, expressed disappointment at the higher wage hikes offered in the spring labor offensive, saying that it would cause problems in the future. Among other things, Suzuki pointed to the danger of inflation, noting that the larger wage hikes could lead companies to raise prices of their products and services.

Commenting on an average 6.11 percent wage hike in private railway companies, Suzuki warned that they should not be followed by an increase in commuting fees as transport charges are already high.

Suzuki also voiced doubts about the present process of spring labor offensive process itself, calling it overly oriented to wage hikes. "We need to depart from an era of wage hike-oriented talks to discuss structural issues such as land, housing, and price differentials for the same products in and outside Japan," Suzuki said.

Nuclear-Powered Ship Suspends Reactor Test

*OW1404131090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1022 GMT
14 Apr 90*

[Text] Aomori, April 14 KYODO—The nuclear ship Mutsu again suspended testing of its reactor Saturday

due to trouble in the main water supply pump, officials reported. The officials of the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute said the test was halted after some parts in the pressure adjustment sensor failed to work properly.

The 8,242-ton ship has been undergoing testing of its reactor at Sekinehama Port in Mutsu, Aomori Prefecture, since March 29 after being put out of operation 16 years ago due to radiation leakage.

The sensor is used to maintain steam pressure at a certain level in order to automatically control the turbine's operation.

The officials said they plan to resume testing Monday after two water supply pumps are replaced. The current tests are aimed at raising the reactor's output level to 20 percent of its capacity. Institute officials said the test was suspended to ensure safe operation of the reactor.

North Korea

Further Birthday Celebrations for Kim Il-song

Attends Art Festival Performances

SK1704214590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1500
GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song saw joint performances given by the artistes from various countries of the world who are participating in the 8th April Spring Friendship Art Festival.

The performances were given by actors and actresses of some one hundred art and circus troupes including international and domestic competition prize winners and well-known artistes from about 60 countries and those of art organisations of overseas Koreans who came with boundless respect and reverence for President Kim Il-song and fervent wishes for his longevity on the occasion of the auspicious April holiday.

Foreign artistes presented baskets of flowers to President Kim Il-song and sincerely wished him good health and long life.

O Chin-u, Yon Hyong-muk, Yi Chong-ok and other party and government cadres saw the performances together with the working people in the city.

Among the audiences were members of the congratulatory group of Koreans in Japan headed by O Hyong-chin, vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), and other delegations and home-visiting groups of Chongnyon and the congratulatory group of Koreans in the Soviet Union and the congratulatory group of Koreans in the United States and a congratulatory delegate of Koreans in Canada for celebrating April 15 and overseas compatriots.

Present there was the representative of the "South Korean National Democratic Front" in Pyongyang.

Members of the visiting delegation of the social action party of Thailand headed by Udon Tantisunthon, deputy leader of the party, foreign guests and diplomatic envoys of various countries here were present on invitation.

Put on the stage of the performances which raised the curtain with choruses of the revolutionary song "Song of General Kim Il-song" and "General Kim Il-song Is Our Sun", etc. Were pieces of music, dance and circus and other colorful numbers.

The performers sang high praises of the greatness of President Kim Il-song who opened a new era of chaju-song by founding the immortal chuche idea and is leading to brilliant victory the historic cause of national, class and human liberations, and of the unbounded respect and reverence of the world's progressive people for President Kim Il-song.

They also emotionally sang of the rare intelligence, seasoned leadership and noble communistic virtues of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il who is successfully carrying forward the revolutionary cause of chuche.

They gave an impressive representation of the endeavours of the Korean people who are dynamically pushing ahead with socialist construction and struggling for the independent reunification of the country, upholding the guidance of the party and the leader, and the creative labor of the peoples of their countries to build a new society under the banner of independence against imperialism and their worthwhile life and national customs.

The joint performances proceeded in an atmosphere overflowing with the feelings of militant friendship and solidarity between the Korean people and the world progressive people which are based on the idea of independence, peace and friendship.

The performances closed with a chorus of "Long Life and Good Health to the Leader" by the entire performers.

They were acclaimed by the audiences for their high ideological and artistic value.

At the end of each of the performances the entire performers shouted "Long live the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song!" As an expression of their warm reverence for President Kim Il-song.

President Kim Il-song sent baskets of flowers to the performers upon their successful performances.

He received the president of the International Music Council, heads of art troupes and artistes from different countries and overseas Korean artistes who took part in the performances and diplomatic envoys of various countries here and posed for a photograph with them.

Art Festival Ends 18 Apr*SK1804104390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008
GMT 18 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 18 (KCNA)—The 8th April Spring Friendship Art Festival, which opened in Pyongyang on April 7, closed today.

Thousands of artistes of more than 100 troupes from 60 odd countries of the five continents displayed their artistic talent and technique to the full on the stages of the festival and tightened the bonds of friendship and solidarity, greatly helping toward promoting cultural cooperation and exchange among nations.

The closing meeting was held at the February 8 House of Culture.

Present there were Yon Hyong-muk, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and premier of the Administration Council; Chong Chun-ki, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice-premier and chairman of the preparatory committee for the festival; and other officials concerned as well as working people in the city and participants of the festival.

Foreign diplomatic envoys and embassy officials here were also present.

At the meeting letters of thanks to the great leader President Kim Il-song and dear Comrade Kim Chong-il were adopted in the name of the participants in the 8th April Spring Friendship Art Festival.

The group prize (cup) and diploma of the "April Spring Friendship Art Festival" were awarded to the excellent art troupes and the festival diploma and prize money to individual artistes and successful pieces.

Then Chang Chol, minister of culture and art and chairman of the organizing committee of the festival, made a closing speech.

The meeting was followed by a closing performance.

Meets With Nationals From USSR*SK1704112090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1045
GMT 17 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received the congratulatory group of Koreans in the Soviet Union for celebrating the 15th of April led by Kim Song, chairman of the Soviet committee for promoting Korea's reunification.

On hand were Yun Ki-pok, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and officials concerned.

The members of the group congratulated President Kim Il-song on his 78th birthday and wished him good health and long life. President Kim Il-song conversed with them

in a warm atmosphere. He received a gift from the members of the congratulatory group. The president entertained them to a luncheon.

Messages From Nationals in Japan*SK1804043890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0422
GMT 18 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 18 (KCNA)—The great leader Marshal Kim Il-song received congratulatory messages from Koreans in Japan on his birthday.

They came from the Standing Council of the Federation of Korean Traders and Industrialists in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the League of Korean Youth in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Union of Korean Democratic Women in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Union of Korean Teachers in Japan, the Standing Council of the Central Educational Association of Koreans in Japan, the Standing Council of the Federation of Korean Credit Associations in Japan, the Central Standing Council of the Association of Korean Social Scientists in Japan, the Central Standing Council of the Scientific and Technological Association of Koreans in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Union of Korean Literary Men and Artists in Japan, the Standing Council of the Federation of Korean Buddhists in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Union of Korean Students Studying at Japanese Schools, and other business bodies and organizations under Chongnyon, institutes, the Kumgangsan Art Troupe and the press organs under Chongnyon including CHOSON SINBO and the KOREAN NEWS SERVICE (KNS), the Tonghae Trading Company, Ltd., the Kumgang Insurance Company, Ltd., the Korean Special Product Selling Company, Ltd., the Korea-Japan Export and Import Corporation and other enterprises, the regional headquarters, branches, sub-branches of Chongnyon, schools at all levels and Koreans of all walks of life of Chongnyon.

The messages sincerely extend highest glory and warmest congratulations to Marshal Kim Il-song on the occasion of the auspicious holiday of April in the first year of the 90's, representing the ardent feelings of reverence and loyalty of the Chongnyon functionaries and Koreans in Japan. The messages highly praise the wise leadership of the great leader who founded the immortal *chuche* idea and led to a victory the cause of sovereignty, independence and socialism with its bright rays and thus performed brilliant feats in the annals of the country and the world revolutionary movement.

Noting that thanks to his benevolent loving care, the Koreans in Japan are able to live with pride as overseas citizens of the DPRK even in Japan, they say that Koreans in Japan are firmly convinced that there are only glory and happiness on the road of following him.

The messages unanimously and sincerely wish the great leader Marshal Kim Il-song good health and long life.

Red Cross Committee Sends Message to South

*SK1804033890 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0300 GMT 18 Apr 90*

[Text] Acting chairman of the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of the DPRK sent to the president of the South Korean Red Cross a telephone message as follows:

To Kim Sang-hyop, president of the ROK Red Cross:

I will send two liaison officials to the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom at 1500 on 19 April 1990 to deliver two letters: one from Han Pil-hwa, who is a people's athlete of the DPRK, to his brother Han Pil-song, and my letter to you. I hope that your side will take corresponding measures.

[Signed] Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of the DPRK

[Dated] 18 April 1990

Asks South To Accept Letter

*SK1804051290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0508
GMT 18 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 18 (KCNA)—Yi Song-ho, acting president of the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, today sent a telephone message to Kim Sang-hyop, president of the South Korean Red Cross.

Notifying the latter that two liaison officials will be sent to the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission at Panmunjom at three on the afternoon of April 19, 1990, to convey a letter of the acting president of C.C., the Red Cross Society of the DPRK to the president of the South Korean Red Cross and a letter of people's sportswoman Han Pil-hwa to her elder brother Han Pil-song, the message hopes that the South side will take a corresponding step.

Signed Article Proposes New Reunification Plan

*SK1704110690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035
GMT 17 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—The new national reunification proposal for pulling down the barrier between the North and the South and realising free travel and complete opening between the North and the South which was advanced by the great leader President Kim Il-song in his New Year address is a decisive measure to remove the hurdles in the way of reunification and bring an epochal turn in the solution of the reunification question and a banner of reunification which promises a sure guarantee for the successful materialisation of the cause of the independent and peaceful reunification of the country by the efforts of our nation, says NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today.

The paper points out:

The concrete wall built in the area South of the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) must be torn down before anything else in order to accelerate the independent and peaceful reunification of the country. The wall is a symbol of the national division and North-South confrontation.

It is not only a physical obstacle bisecting the country into the North and the South but also a product of the splittist policy which cuts off the artery of the homogeneous nation and constitutes an ideological, political and juridical hurdle lying in the way of the harmonious development of the nation. Accordingly, as long as such barrier is left intact, it is impossible to realise multi-channelled contact and dialogue, free travel and complete opening between the North and the South and make a practical progress in the solution of Korea's reunification problem.

Only when the concrete wall is removed can the people of all strata in the North and the South meet and talk with each other, freely travelling from and to the areas of each side without any limitation or discrimination, and, furthermore, improve the relations closed down between the North and the South and realise multi-channelled collaboration and interchanges.

If the barrier between the North and the South is demolished and free travel and complete opening are realized a broad avenue will be opened for the entire Korean nation to put their will together and pool efforts to repulse the interference by outside forces and reunify the country independently and peacefully.

From the first days of the territorial division by the outside forces, the great leader, putting it as the supreme national task to reunify the country, has set forth the most realistic and reasonable policies for national reunification in each period and at each stage with a scientific penetration into the trend of the development of the situation and has wisely led our party and people to the struggle to carry them into practice, the paper says, and continues:

All the proposals and policies advanced by the great leader—the three principles for national reunification in the 1970s, the proposal in the 1980s for founding the democratic confederal republic of Koryo, the new national reunification proposal in the 1990s for tearing down the barrier between the North and the South and realising free travel and complete opening between them and other proposals—represent his *chuche*-based and patriotic lofty intention to solve the question of the national reunification in keeping with the specific conditions of the country and the interests of the people, placing it before anything else.

The prospect for the reunification of the country is bright thanks to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the sun of the nation and lodestar of the country's reunification, and the wise leadership of our party.

Easter Prayer Meetings Call for 'Wall' Removal*SK1704053290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0506
GMT 17 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—Easter prayer meetings were held at the Changchung Cathedral and Pongsu Church in Pyongyang on April 15.

Present there were religionists in Pyongyang, foreign believers and Korean believers from abroad.

A lecture was given at the Changchung Cathedral by Chang Chae-chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Roman Catholics association, and a preaching at the Pongsu Church by Yi Song-pong, pastor of the church.

They in the lecture and preaching said that the concrete wall bisecting the country should be pulled down and the resurrection of the nation, the noble cause of national reunification be achieved as early as possible.

Commentary Assails South Over Foreign Ties*SK1704225790 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
1150 GMT 14 Apr 90*

[Commentary by station commentator Kim Kyong-pok: "Do They Have Face To Talk About a Door Opening?"]

[Text] The South Korean puppets have frequently raved that they will try to lead someone else to opening their doors. Even when they are in overseas countries, they have begged those countries to help them. In addition, the South Korean puppets are seeing to it that the Korean Freedom Fighter League launches a signature-gathering campaign throughout South Korea to urge the North to open its doors.

This is indeed a presumptuous and ridiculous farce. It is evident that the puppets are babbling about door opening with sinister calculation. The puppets have had the foolishness to try to impell so-called door-opening waves into the northern half of the Republic, and, through this, to internationally legalize two Koreas. And, what is worse, they are trying to destroy our socialist system.

This itself is a vain effort and undermines the desire of the nation for peace and reunification. Furthermore, the puppets have no right to talk about door opening. In view of trends of the times and in view of the desire of the nation for reunification, it is South Korea, not the North that should be virtually opened.

South Korea is the most closed colonial fascist society in the world. The No Tae-u ring has been engaged in a military fascist and closed policy, has perpetuated every type of fascist evil law and suppression organ, and has infringed upon and trampled underfoot the people's primary democratic freedoms and their right to democracy.

By invoking the fascist National Security Law, the rascals have atrociously suppressed and punished Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, who came to the northern half of the Republic by detouring around the earth to negotiate with us over the reunification question; Yim Su-kyong, who participated in the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students; and all others who are longing for the North and trying to contact and hold dialogue with the North.

Those who are studying and spreading the chuche idea, which has been studied and spread all over the world, have been dragged into prisons with their hands shackled. In addition, the fascist ring has regarded progressive publishing houses, press organs, universities, and democratic organizations as targets of suppression.

The concrete wall proves how closed the puppets are. The puppet ring has perpetuated the concrete wall built in the southern section of the 2,400 km-long Military Demarcation Line, and has used this wall as a means to check the free passage and full-scale opening between North and South and for destroying the desire of South Korean student and youth movement for reunification.

The puppets, who claim there is no such wall, are called on by the world to pull it down. They have no right at all to talk about someone else opening their door. Babbling about someone else opening their door is a presumptuous deception and mockery to their fellow countrymen, while at the same time they are building high the wall of division, making South Korea into a fascist and closed society, and blocking the desire of the nation for reunification.

The world's progressive people and the nation are firmly determined and unannouncedly desire that free visits be allowed, that North and South open up to each other, and that efforts be made to achieve independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland. The puppet ring should not make absurd remarks about opening or anything else but instead pull down the concrete wall which is as deep rooted as a dagger in the heart of the fatherland.

Article Assails South's Pursuit of UN Seat*SK1304112790 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0838 GMT 11 Apr 90*

[Unattributed special article: "The South Korean Puppets Are Not Qualified To Enter the United Nations"]

[Text] The maneuvers of the No Tae-u's puppets to perpetuate the division of the country at the instigation of the U.S. imperialists are becoming more serious with each passing day. Arguing that the North and South should enter the United Nations simultaneously and that otherwise, South Korea should seek to enter the United Nations on its own, the No Tae-u ring is now carrying out behind-the-scenes negotiations toward this end.

As is known, the South Korean puppets, while babbling about the need to broaden the base of international

support for their entry into the United Nations, are now persistently maneuvering even abroad toward that end. The South Korean puppets have long floated the idea of the simultaneous admission of the North and South into the United Nations and South Korea's unilateral entry. Even the previous ruling circles of South Korea made their intention as such known to the United Nations. However, at every turn their efforts have been rebuffed in the face of the rejection from the UN member states. The racket kicked up by the current No Tae-u puppet regime in South Korea, namely their attempt to gain unilateral admission into the United Nations, is now ridiculed and denounced by UN member states.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: South Korea is a complete colony of the United States, not an independent country. Americans lie when they call South Korea an independent state. It is widespread knowledge that South Korea is a colony and a nuclear forward base of the U.S. imperialists and that the South Korean puppet regime serves only as an instrument in executing U.S. colonial policy. The so-called government in South Korea is a colonial puppet regime whose wires are pulled by the U.S. imperialists, totally lacking in sovereignty of any kind.

There are, of course, a president, the parliament, and even what is called a government, in South Korea. However, they exist in name only and function only as a folding screen to camouflage the fact that South Korea is practically under the rule of the U.S. imperialists. To speak of the U.S. imperialists, they are given unlimited real power to the point where they can make anyone president and kick him out of office as they please; shoot him to death if he proves to be unpalatable to them and replace him with somebody else. For this reason, a U.S. newspaper said that since the No Tae-u regime is controlled by U.S. intervention in the internal affairs of the regime, it has, ultimately, no choice but to speak for U.S. interests. A group of people in the United States who monitor human rights in the South branded the traitor No Tae-u as a puppet whose wire is pulled by the United States as it pleases.

The South Korean puppets' babbling about they and the United States having a partnership is a downright lie. As has already been stated by South Korea's National Democratic Alliance of Korea [Chonminnyon] in a statement, the United States and South Korea are in an unequal relationship of dependence and subordination, not in a relationship of reciprocity and equality. South Korea is thoroughly subordinate to the United States not just politically, but also economically. In its information, the international jurist association for the promotion of democracy and human rights in South Korea noted that South Korea is not an independent state; it exists only as a multinational entity, lacking as it does things purely Korean. This shows the real picture of the South Korean economy held in hostage to foreign monopoly capital.

The No Tae-u puppet ring's presumptuous advertisement of the so-called economic potential in South Korea

and ravings about the entry into the United Nations are a deceptive propaganda designed to cloak their economic subordination in guise. The South Korean people describe the South Korean economy as a colonial economy subordinate to the United States and Japan, as an occupation economy, and even an economy built on a heap of debts. This notion is not accidental at all.

Instead of speaking even a word of protest against the master's pressure on South Korea to open up its market to U.S. goods, traitor No Tae-u fully yields to U.S. pressure. Given the circumstances in which he cannot dare disobey the harsh orders from his masters, traitor No Tae-u, a colonial running dog, fears more than anything else harsh reprimand from his master who controls the South Korean economy if he refuses the master's demands.

The puppets' raving about successes in or potential of the South Korean economy, the model case of colonial economy of subordination is as utterly preposterous as a prostitute bragging about her honor.

The puppet regime in South Korea does not even exercise the prerogative of supreme command over the armed forces, a symbol of an independent state. The so-called Constitution written by the South Korean puppets clearly stipulates that the prerogative of supreme command rests with the president. Nevertheless, the prerogative of supreme command over the South Korean armed forces is in fact in the hands of the U.S. imperialists.

At every opportunity, the traitor No Tae-u, a loyal running dog of the U.S. imperialists, has begged for the perpetual occupation of South Korea by the U.S. Forces. Also, every time the issue of transfer of control is discussed in political circles, he has said that it is too early. This way, he has begged the U.S. Forces to continue to have control over the South Korean forces. This shows that the No Tae-u puppet regime is a hand that carries out the U.S. imperialists' policy of the war of aggression.

The U.S. imperialist aggressors also completely occupy South Korea ideologically and culturally. No Tae-u's is a colonial regime that has no independence to speak of, that has no control over its armed forces, and that is economically subjugated to outside forces. A regime of this nature is trying to enter the United Nations. How ridiculous this is!

A colonial running dog like the traitor No Tae-u, an outcast of the era, advocates the entry into the United Nations. This is an unforgivable act that defiles the United Nations and that harms its dignity and authority. Not only in view of the nation's earnest desire for reunification but also in view of the UN Charter and the UN resolutions, this is a crime that can never be tolerated.

The puppets' maneuvers for sole admission into the United Nations is the byproduct of the U.S. imperialists'

criminal maneuvers to fabricate two Koreas. With an ambition to use South Korea as a forward nuclear base and to use this springboard in invading the northern half of our Republic and other socialist countries, the U.S. imperialists are further strengthening their policy of the occupation of South Korea and are frantically maneuvering to eternally divide Korea. They are trying to realize international recognition, contacts, and simultaneous admission into the United Nations or South Korea's sole admission into the United Nations in an effort to let South Korea emerge as an independent state, thus internationally justifying Korea's division. According to his U.S. masters' two-Koreas strategy, the No Tae-u puppet clique is trying to enter the United Nations at all costs, thus justifying the presence of two states on the Korean peninsula and eternally dividing the country. However, the South Korea's puppets' maneuvers to enter the United Nations will surely be frustrated.

As reported, at a meeting to mark the 42d anniversary of the Cheju people's uprising, approximately 5,000 students from 12 universities in Seoul said that the attempt for sole admission into the United Nations by the South authorities and the Democratic Liberal Party and the separate elections in the South in 1948 are in the same vein, and stressed that they oppose sole admission into the United Nations. The students also urged the South Korean authorities to stop carrying out their policy of dividing the North and South by way of admission into the United Nations and to promote exchange with the North. Youths, students, and people from all walks of life all over the South are resolutely fighting against the United States and for independence and reunification, while chanting such slogans as "We oppose sole admission into the United Nations, an act that will perpetuate division." South Korean opposition parties and dissident organizations are also asserting that an attempt for sole admission into the United Nations is designed to further aggravate North-South confrontation and to freeze division.

Dignified members of the United Nations cannot help but be disgusted at the fact that, with the backing of the U.S. imperialists, the puppets led by No Tae-u are playing all sorts of tricks to enter the United Nations. South Korea, a colony, is not qualified to enter the United Nations. Neither the North and South together nor either of them separately should enter the United Nations before being reunified. They should enter the United Nations under a single state name after, at least, a confederal system is realized. This is our unchanging, principled stand. Inspiring South Korea's puppets led by No Tae-u into maneuvering to enter the United Nations or supporting such maneuvers by them is an interference into our nation's internal affairs and a reactionary act that hinders Korea's reunification. The No Tae-u puppet clique's divisionist attempt to enter the United Nations must be unconditionally checked and frustrated. Our people will resolutely crush any maneuver by divisionist forces at home and abroad to eternally divide a single territory into two and will achieve the historic cause of reunifying the fatherland at all costs.

Dailies Denounce South's 'Welfare Society'

SK1704060690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0518 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—It was reported in South Korea that a man named Kim Yong-sik and a man in his fifties died of hunger and cold respectively near a motorway in Chomchon City and near Chomchon Railway Station, North Kyongsang Province.

The family of Um Sung-ok, four persons altogether, in Chonho-tong no. 1 of Kangdong District, Seoul, on April 10 attempted to commit suicide for they could not pay house rent. Three of them were reported to die and the other found himself in a critical condition.

This is part of the true picture of the so-called "welfare society" of South Korea, declare NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON in commentaries today.

The news analyst of NODONG SINMUN says: In South Korea the people's standard of living went from bad to worse and the cases of tragic suicide increased in number after the traitor No Tae-u took office.

Sixty percent of the urban population of South Korea live in rented houses, and it is 78.8 percent in case of the poor people in Seoul.

As of late May last year, the minimum monthly living cost in South Korea reached 1,005,500 won for a five-member family. However, South Korean workers work on the starvation salaries of 100,000-150,000 won in a month, and quite a few other workers earn less money.

As a matter of fact, the death of South Koreans is caused by the murderous acts of the No Tae-u group who inflict endless uneasiness and disasters upon the people through treacheries, violent suppression and plunder.

The No Tae-u group's outcries for "welfare benefits," "building of a welfare society" and "solution to the housing problem" are no more than a deceptive trick to conceal their treacheries, lull the discontent of the people and prop up the tottering colonial fascist rule.

There can be no "welfare" for the masses under the anti-popular ruling system like South Korea.

Strike Against KBS 'Venal President' Reported

SK1504083090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0807 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 15 (KCNA)—The struggle of the unionists of the Korea Broadcasting System (KBS) for the resignation of the venal president is rapidly expanding, according to reports.

Some 4,000 unionists of the KBS headquarters and provincial bureaux and local broadcasting outfits held a rally at the headquarters building at noon on April 13 and adopted a resolution demanding an immediate resignation of the venal president. In the resolution the

protesters charged that the outrage of the venal president in openly calling police in the suppression of them is "unpardonable brutality" and declared that they would continue their all-night strike, refusing work till So Ki-won, a vicious vassal of the fascist clique, has resigned from the presidential post.

What draws attention is the involvement of some one hundred department directors of "KBS" in the strike of the unionists. The department directors in a statement on April 13 condemned the scheme of the venal president to use them as a shield to prevent the struggle of the unionists.

With the struggle of the unionists gaining momentum, the regular live broadcasting of KBS has come to a standstill and the protesters warned that radio channels would be totally off the air with the paralysis of the broadcasting function, if their demand fell on a deaf ear. The people of and above the rank of bureau chief of "KBS" are sympathizing with the struggle.

The unionists of SEOUL SINMUN whose president had been So Ki-won released a statement on April 13 and expressed solidarity with the struggle of the KBS unionists.

Article Lauds Chuche Idea as 'Supreme Ideal'

SK1704071890 *Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean*
0007 GMT 31 Mar 90

[NODONG SINMUN 31 Mar special article: "The Chuche Idea Is a Great Idea Which Has Indicated a Road for the Popular Masses To Realize Their Desire and Ideal for Independence"]

[Text] Fully realizing independence is the centuries-old desire and supreme ideal of the popular masses. Realizing the desire and ideal of the popular masses for independence and correctly indicating a path to independence are a basic yardstick to regulate the vitality, value, and validity of a revolutionary doctrine which has contributed to human emancipation.

Throughout the entire history of mankind the history of progressive ideological development has been that of careful thought and study to indicate a true road for human emancipation. The struggle for independence has been constantly staged in the process of mankind's development. In the course of the development of mankind, progressive thinkers have put forward valuable ideologies helpful to mankind's emancipation, which reflect the demands of the advanced social class.

Before the emergence of a revolutionary ideology of the working class, none of the trends of thought indicated a true road for human emancipation owing to historical and class restrictions. The preceding revolutionary ideology of the working class laid a foundation for class liberation by indicating conditions and methods to realize the historic tasks of the working class on the basis of the establishment of a dialectic materialism-centered

outlook on the world. This has been a great advance in realizing the centuries-old desire and ideal of the popular masses for independence.

The great chuche idea is a perfect revolutionary doctrine to realize the desire and ideal of the masses for independence in that it was the first in the world to raise the realization of independence as the supreme goal of human emancipation on the basis of the establishment of a man-centered outlook on the world and gave comprehensive answers to all problems in attaining the goal while defending the idea of class liberation raised by the preceding ideology of the working class.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il with his energetic ideological and theoretical activities has enriched the chuche idea founded by the great leader President Kim Il-song into a profound and unique ideology and theory. He has formulated this idea in an all-round way and perfected it in his monumental work, "On the chuche Idea," and in many other works. This has greatly contributed to the accomplishment of the independent desire and ideal of the masses.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Political Bureau Presidium and secretary of the party Central Committee, noted:

Because it reflects the common aspiration of the world's people's for independence, the chuche idea is having a great influence on the contemporary revolutionary movement to build a new world of independence.

The great feat, performed by the chuche idea in indicating the path to realize the desire and ideal of the popular masses for independence, is, above all, the establishment of the chuche-based outlook on the world, which has genuinely contributed in realizing the independence of the popular masses.

The outlook on the world is a monolithic system, conception, and position. Thus, its basic task is to indicate a basic path to shape human destiny. Only when we have the right outlook on the world can we acquire the correct view on nature, society, and ourselves can we defend our position as masters of the world and our destiny and properly carry out our tasks.

The chuche idea, for the first time in history, established a man-centered philosophical outlook on the world, which was developed and systematized centering on people, thereby brilliantly accomplishing a historic cause of indicating a path to realize the centuries-old desire and ideal of the popular masses for independence. The world outlook of the chuche philosophy raised the fundamental question of philosophy by regarding man as the main factor; formulated the philosophical principle that man is the master of everything and decides everything; and, on this basis, elucidated the man-centered view, concept, and position on the world. This outlook expounds in a scientific way that independence is an attribute essential to the life of a social human being. An independent life free from subjugation and restriction is

his intrinsic demand, and the complete realization of independence is his fundamental purpose. It also most correctly indicates the fundamental way for man to shape his own destiny.

Shaping our own destiny precisely means realization of our own desire and ideal for independence. The course of shaping our own destiny is precisely a course of realizing independence. And, complete realization of independence means a supreme ideal of the people.

As human beings live in the world, so the destiny of human beings is decided according to the relations between the people and the world. Thus, the fact that mankind is master of the world and plays the decisive role in world development precisely means that mankind also plays an important part in shaping his own destiny as master of his own destiny.

Thus, the essence of the world and the inevitability of change and development in the world are elucidated in the most scientific way by the chuche-based philosophical outlook on the world, which has been developed and systematized on the basis of a philosophical theory indicating the position and role of mankind in the world. In addition, the chuche-based philosophical outlook on the world is a guiding principle indicating the path to shape mankind's destiny.

Therefore, the chuche-based outlook on the world laid the foundation of principles to realize the centuries-old desire and ideal of mankind for independence. And, the chuche-based theory—seeing all activities of the popular masses centering on the people—has been systematized. Another feat, which the chuche idea performed in realizing the centuries-old desire and ideal of the popular masses for independence, is that it has propounded, from a new angle, the inevitable course for realizing independence and, on this basis, systematized in an integral way the theories, strategies, and tactics of the revolutionary movement.

Correctly indicating the inevitability of achieving independence is one of the questions of principle arising in realizing the desire and ideal of the popular masses for independence. Only when this question is correctly settled can the theories and strategies and tactics of the revolution for realizing independence be elucidated in a scientific way, and can the popular masses realize the desire and ideal for independence, along the most direct road.

The course in which independence of the people has been realized is a course in which the demand of social human beings for independence—freeing themselves from all restrictions and subjugation and living and prospering as masters of the world—has been realized through their creative activities. Creative struggle of the people to transform nature and society is staged by their demand for independence and accelerated by their creative ability.

The foundation of all activities for the realization of independence is the desire and demand of the people for independence. Any creative activities of the people start from their desire and demand for transforming nature and society in keeping with their demand for independence. And, their desire and demand can be realized by their creative ability. When their demand for independence is realized, on this basis, the people raise new higher demands and come to realize these demands.

The fact that the creative activities of the people to realize independence begin with their demands for independence and further spread according to the development of their creative abilities, and that this independence is realized on a higher stage according to the incessant development of their creative activities is precisely the inevitable course for realizing independence.

Independence of the popular masses can be realized through the revolution. Struggle for the revolution precisely means a struggle to realize independence of the popular masses. The revolution is carried out by the demand of the popular masses for independence and is expanded by their creative ability and revolutionary ability.

Although objective material condition is important in carrying out the revolution and in winning victory in the revolution, the origin and main component of the revolution can be found in the demand of the popular masses for independence and in their creative ability, because the popular masses demand the revolution and carry out it.

The chuche idea develops the inevitability of the beginning and the evolution of the revolution and the theories on the historical course of the revolutionary struggle for independence and all stages and all domains of the revolution, with the working masses as the main factor. And, the chuche idea comprehensively formulates the strategies and tactics of the revolution on the basis of the roles of the working people and systematized in an integral way these strategies and tactics. The important content of the great chuche idea and its historic contribution to the development of the revolutionary thought of the working class lies in indicating how to realize the desire for independence and the ideals of the masses.

The great achievement that the chuche idea has registered in realizing the popular masses' independent desire and ideal is also that it has scientifically and perfectly elucidated the leadership method of correctly leading the popular masses' struggle for independence. The question of leadership method is an important question which is of unique significance theoretically and practically in the popular masses' revolutionary struggle for independence. The socialist cause is not only a difficult and complicated struggle to change and reform the world, but is also a struggle in which a wide range of the masses participate. Therefore, this struggle can be waged only

when the correct leadership method is guaranteed along with correct guiding ideology and guiding theory.

The great *chuche* idea has presented the question of leadership method as one of the basic questions for the victory of the revolution and extensively elucidated it. In particular, the *chuche* idea has clarified anew and perfected the ruling party's leadership method, the leadership method of leading socialist construction. The *chuche* idea has given extensive and perfect answers to all questions which arise in the leadership of the masses, including the essence of revolutionary leadership, the principles of leadership, and leadership art, based on the basic principle of *chuche* regarding the combination of guidance and the masses.

Based on the scientific explanation of the position and role that the leader occupies in the development of history and in the struggle for the revolution, the *chuche* idea has clearly elucidated that the leadership in the masses is, in essence, the leader's leadership, that the popular masses can become the independent main forces of history which shape their destinies with their own strength only when they are blessed with the leadership of the party and the leader, and that, therefore, guaranteeing the unitary leadership of the leader in the leadership of the masses is the basic question which determines the destiny of the revolution.

Elucidating that the leadership in the masses is the work of leading the popular masses to occupy the position as the master of the revolution and construction and to perform the role as their master, the *chuche* idea has also defined the leadership in the masses as the basic principle of leadership and has defined the combination of the unitary leadership of the party and the mass line as the firm and invariable principle in the party activity of the working class. Thus, the *chuche* idea has provided a guarantee which makes it possible to highly enhance the creative power of the masses.

Indeed, the *chuche* idea is the great ideology which has opened the unexplored and totally new path—on which the popular masses pioneer history and their destinies with their own strength—by realizing the aspirations for and the ideal of independence that had been only a desire of mankind for several centuries. Thanks to the extraordinary ideological and theoretical activities of the great leader and the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, our people have been able to vigorously advance along the single road of victory with a perfect revolutionary doctrine for the realization of independence.

Kim Il-song Gives 'On-the-Spot' Guidance

SK1704111290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1054
GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—The workers of the Nakwon machine complex who had the great honor of nominating the great leader President Kim Il-song as a candidate for deputy to the 9th Supreme People's Assembly are effecting innovations in production.

Nakwon is a place associated with the history of on-the-spot guidance by President Kim Il-song. In the grim days of the last fatherland liberation war he went to the workers there and instilled into them a hope and conviction of victory in future.

In the subsequent period, too, he went there several times and sat face to face with the workers to discuss the ways of boosting the production and encourage them to make greater successes.

It is the main point of the leadership method of the great leader to find himself among the people and encourage them to perform new exploits through his on-the-spot guidance.

At the beginning of last year he gave on-the-spot guidance over the introduction of central heating and gas systems in rural villages and then went to the Sangwon cement complex and acquainted himself with the production there and the living conditions of the workers.

In May he took part in the opening ceremony of the May Day Stadium, the world's leading stadium, and then gave on-the-spot guidance in the work of the recently expanded Sungni general motor works and of various domains of the national economy in South Hamgyong Province. In the fall he visited cooperative farms to share the joy at a bumper harvest with the agricultural working people.

On October 9, the day before the party founding anniversary, he visited the gigantic Sunchon vinylon complex and declared the start of the operation of its first stage.

He has covered an endless path of on-the-spot guidance.

Right after the liberation of the country (August 1945) he went to a steel works before visiting Mangyongdae, his native place, although it was on the way to the steel works, and thus inspired the working class to the building of a new country. As soon as he descended the platform of a mass rally to celebrate the victory of the fatherland liberation war right after the cease-fire, he went to a brickyard and aroused the workers there to post-war rehabilitation and construction.

He went to the workers of the Chollima steel complex in late 1956 when the nation was undergoing difficulties owing to squalid wounds of war, moves of the enemies at home and abroad, etc. And encouraged them to launch a collective innovation movement.

This originated the grand march of Chollima throughout the country.

The great Leader gave on-the-spot guidance in the work of more than one hundred units every year in the post-war days called a period of great Chollima upsurge. He gave on-the-spot guidance in the work of several hundreds of units in 1958 alone.

President Kim Il-song visited the construction site of the West Sea barrage, a vast project to dam up the rough sea

extending 8 kilometres, on several occasions and made sure that the project was completed in a short period.

In May 1981 he made a trip to various places aboard a boat for a long time to confirm the position of the barrage and later visited the construction site several times and acquainted himself with the progress of the construction.

And when the project was completed he cut the red tape in June 1986 to announce its historical opening.

He chose the site of the gigantic Sunchon vinylon complex and gave on-the-spot guidance over the construction work in 1986, 1988 and on other occasions and made sure that the project was accelerated.

He made an endless trip to give on-the-spot guidance so as to bring the people happiness and joy, on joyous holidays and even on his birthdays.

That is why our people look up to the great leader as their real father and are building the country into a paradise by implementing his teachings.

The Chongsan cooperative farm, Kim Il-song University, the Chollima steel complex and many other industrial establishments, coop farms and schools where he gave on-the-spot guidance on several occasions have turned into model units.

Kim Il-song's 'Noble Communist Virtues' Recalled

*SK1704111990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021
GMT 17 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—The Workers' Party of Korea publishing house brought out "Among the People" (45), a collection of reminiscences.

The book contains 16 reminiscences on the rare wisdom, outstanding leadership ability and noble communist virtues of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Some of them are about his noble traits, including the story that he broad-mindedly embraced Choe Tok-sin [former ROK official] with a complicated socio-political career [as received] and guided him to live a brilliant life in his last years and the story that he brought up the children of the fallen revolutionaries into the pillars of the country. Some others are about his wise leadership of different sectors of socialist construction including agriculture, fisheries, machine-building industry and education and the work of accomplishing the cause of anti-imperialist independence.

Alternate Political Bureau Members at Function

*SK1704100590 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2100 GMT 13 Apr 90*

[Excerpts] A 15 April Children Flower Garden will be constructed at the outdoor park in the Mangyongdae School Children's Place. [passage omitted]

A ground-breaking meeting of 15 April Children Flower Garden was held on the spot yesterday. The meeting was attended by Comrade Chong Chun-ki and Comrade Kang Hui-won, alternate members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice premiers of the Administration Council; by Choe Mun-son, responsible secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Party Committee and chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee; and by other functionaries concerned with youth shock brigade members and students and children. [passage omitted]

Candidates for Deputies to SPA Nominated

*SK1504083890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0820
GMT 15 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 15 (KCNA)—Voters' meetings for the nomination of candidates for deputies to the 9th Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have been held in constituencies across the country.

At the meetings all the voters are nominating candidates for deputies to the SPA with a high degree of revolutionary enthusiasm to fully demonstrate once again, through the election, the might of the political and ideological unity of our people united in one mind around the party and the leader and the advantages of our socialist system.

Yi Chong-ok was nominated as a candidate for deputy to the SPA at the Kumgol Constituency No. 477, Pak Song-chol at the Changyon Constituency No. 333, Chon Pyong-ho at the Kumbit Constituency No. 512, So Yun-sok at the Sangbong Constituency No. 134, Kim Pok-sin at the Todok Constituency No. 86, Kang Hui-won at the Hukryong Constituency No. 94, Hong Si-hak at the Sinpo Constituency No. 501, Yi Son-sil at the Kangnam Constituency No. 100, Yun Ki-pok at the Puraesan Constituency No. 561, Kim Chang-chu at the Chaeryong Constituency No. 317 and Yi Kye-paek, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party, at the Oun Constituency No. 77.

The voters' meetings held at the constituencies throughout the country also nominated as candidates for deputies to the SPA the officials, workers, peasants, working intellectuals and soldiers who are all boundlessly loyal to the great leader President Kim Il-song and our party and devoting their all to the struggle for the party and revolution, the country and people.

The voters' meetings to nominate candidates for deputies to the SPA continue.

Political Bureau Member at Waterway Meeting

*SK1704100790 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
1100 GMT 13 Apr 90*

[Excerpts] The second-stage project of the waterway from the West Sea barrage to Onchon has been completed. [passage omitted]

A meeting for the completion of the second-stage project of the waterway from the West Sea barrage to Onchon was held in front of Yildang pumping station in Chungang-ni, Onchon County, on the morning of 11 April. [passage omitted]

The meeting was attended by Comrade So Yun-sok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and responsible secretary of the South Pyongan Provincial Party Committee and chairman of the South Pyongan Provincial People's Committee; and by other functionaries concerned from the government and provinces with agricultural workers in farming districts and builders of waterway construction. [passage omitted]

Ceremony Held for Waterway Project Completion

*SK1704225890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1010
GMT 17 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—The waterway project for irrigating the Miru fields with the water of the Nam River has been completed in North Hwanghae Province, the central western part of Korea.

The working people in the province and the Korean People's Army soldiers who participated in the waterway project, upholding the grand nature-remaking plan of the Workers' Party of Korea, removed more than 1,004,000 cubic metres of earth, brought into shape a more than 52 kilometre waterway and completed a huge amount of work including the construction of 144 various structures and the laying of 57 kilometre transmission lines in a short period.

This project is designed to pump the water of the Nam River which had flown to the Taedong River up to a 210 metre height to irrigate the fields in Singye, Koksan and Suan Counties in North Hwanghae Province. This made it possible to supply sufficient irrigation water to the more than 20,000 paddy and non-paddy Miru fields.

The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea sent a message of thanks to the People's Army soldiers and working people in the province who performed feats of labour in the waterway project.

A ceremony for the completion of this project was held on April 14.

West Sea Barrage-Lake Changsu Waterway Completed

*SK1404105090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1044
GMT 14 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 14 (KCNA)—The waterway for drawing the water of the Taedong River which has been turned into a large artificial lake with the construction of the West Sea Barrage into Lake Changsu in Sinwon County, South Hwanghae Province, has been completed.

Its completion has opened a bright prospect for supplying more sufficient water to the vast expanse of arable land in the Yonbaek Plain, a granary on the west coast.

A ceremony for the completion of the waterway took place on April 13.

A message of thanks of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was conveyed to the builders of the waterway.

Exhibition of Robots, Automation Elements Opens

*SK1404105290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1041
GMT 14 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 14 (KCNA)—A national exhibition of robots made by members of the three-revolution teams opened in Pyongyang.

Put on show there are some 1,400 robots and 2,100 odd electronic and automation elements of 58 kinds, which were contrived and manufactured by members of the three-revolution teams dispatched to different fields of the national economy.

Among them are "painting robot", "casting robot" and many other robots conducive to streamlining the production processes and increasing productivity in the mining, metal and machine industries.

They include no small number of robots for construction, railway, chemical industry and agriculture such as "plasma cutting robot" and "outside cleaner of coaches".

Also exhibited are specific robots which will serve for the improvement of the living standard and health of the people in light industry, public health and other domains.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition was held Friday [13 Apr].

Exhibition of Light Industrial Goods Opens

*SK1404103290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020
GMT 14 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 14 (KCNA)—A national industrial art exhibition-light industrial goods designs opened at the Korean Art Gallery on April 12.

On display are more than 780 designs of textiles, shoes, garments, furniture and daily necessities and products based on them.

The exhibits give a glimpse of the development of the nation's light industry.

Among them the "design of printed curtain," "design of velvet patterns" and "design of cloth for one-piece dresses of chicken feather patterns" draw the attention of the visitors for their quiet and refreshing color.

Displayed there are designs of traditional Korean costumes peculiar with their color and decorative belts catering to the socialist way of life, and designs of convenient jumpers for men.

Also on display are designs of shoes for men and women with colors suitable to four seasons, designs of daily necessities and furniture, and porcelainware inheriting the tradition of Koryo porcelain and wooden daily necessities.

Reopening of Kwangju Cultural Center Criticized

*SK1404075090 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
1150 GMT 13 Apr 90*

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil:
"There Can Be No Resting Place for the Aggressors"]

[Text] According to reports, a so-called spokesman for the U.S. State Department said that plans to reopen the Kwangju American Cultural Center on 13 April has been postponed and that it will be opened within two months.

This is an attempt to reopen the American Cultural Center after the tenth anniversary of the Kwangju people's uprising, which clearly shows the craftiness of the U.S. imperialists who have not thrown away their aggressive ambition, even though they are in a tight corner in facing the anti-U.S. spirit of the South Korean people.

Recently in South Korea, along with the antifascist struggle for democracy, the anti-U.S. struggle for independence is being rapidly enhanced. Especially, through the atrocity of the Kwangju massacre, the South Korean people have correctly realized that the U.S. is by no means their friend or ally, but that they are an all-out aggressor, plunderer, and an implacable enemy. They are also carrying out the anti-U.S. struggle in a popular and organized way so that they can receive the price of the blood that was shed by the struggling warriors.

The South Korean youths, students, and people repeatedly attacked the U.S. Embassy in Seoul and also carried out daring struggles such as successively occupying and carrying out surprise attacks on the American Cultural Centers in Seoul, Kwangju, and Taegu and on the U.S. aggressive barracks. Last year, South Korean youths, students, and people launched strong anti-U.S. struggles against Bush's visit to South Korea and on the ninth anniversary of the Kwangju people's uprising. When plans for Bush to visit South Korea were announced, they sent an open letter to the U.S. Embassy opposing the rascal's visit to South Korea and proclaimed the period of his visit as a period of the people's struggle. Also, mass struggles were held in various places in South Korea including Seoul and Kwangju opposing his visit.

Feeling the sting of the situation, it was inevitable for Bush to run away after staying for only five hours; the U.S. Embassy in Seoul made a show of taking the Stars and Stripes that had been put up on the rooftop down to a third floor window.

After this, the U.S. imperialists closed down the Kwangju American Cultural Center on 10 May and announced that the U.S. Eighth Army Headquarters which is situated in Yongsan, Seoul will be moved to another place. Nevertheless, the U.S. imperialists are once again maneuvering to reopen the Kwangju American Cultural Center which was closed almost one year ago today.

Furthermore, what cannot be overlooked is the fact that they are babbling to reopen the Kwangju American Cultural Center two months later than the scheduled time which was 13 April. It is clear to anyone that this kind of scheme by the U.S. imperialists was ignited due to the worry over the anti-U.S. spirit which is being heightened in South Korea on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Kwangju people's uprising.

Currently in South Korea, there are signs of holding stronger anti-U.S. struggles on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Kwangju people's uprising. South Korean youth and student organizations including dissident organizations and people of various strata are organizing the struggle against the U.S. imperialists, who are the wire pullers and accomplices of the atrocious Kwangju massacre.

On 11 April, the National Council of University Representatives (Chondaehyop) held a regular general meeting and decided that this year's struggle direction would be the anti-U.S. struggle for independence, struggle to smash the Democratic Liberal Party, and struggle to withdraw U.S. troops and popularize the anti-U.S. sentiment. To actively carry this out is by no means a coincidence.

If the U.S. imperialists reopen the Kwangju American Cultural Center under these circumstances, it is clear to anyone that the anti-U.S. struggle will explode in South Korea, this being the ignition point. Therefore, the crafty U.S. imperialists decided to reopen the Kwangju American Cultural Center after the tenth anniversary of the Kwangju people's uprising. However this cannot be a means to prevent the South Korean people from carrying out an anti-U.S. struggle.

There can be no resting place for the U.S. imperialist aggressors where South Korea was shifted from a place where the anti-U.S. struggle was not carried out at all to where the anti-U.S. struggle is being held rigorously. A South Korean paper wrote that South Korea has now shifted from the only place in the world where anti-U.S. struggles were not held to a place where the anti-U.S. struggles are being held. It also said that the anti-U.S. movement is not limited only to activist students but that it is serious in that it is evoking sympathy among the people also.

As long as the U.S. imperialists do not give away their aggressive ambition and continue to stay in South Korea playing the role of master, the anti-U.S. struggle by the South Korean people will be further strengthened. The U.S. imperialists must look straight at the situation

developing in South Korea and leave South Korea without delay taking along with them their aggressive institutions and aggressive forces.

U.S. 'Imperialists' Increasing Forces in Pacific

SK1704105290 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024*
GMT 17 Apr 90

[“U.S. Imperialists’ Asia-Pacific Strategy and Troop ‘Cut’ Plan”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today says that the plan of the U.S. imperialists to reduce their armed forces in the Asia-Pacific region by 10 percent in a few years to come is not for detente but for “readjustment of forces” seeking to maintain and strengthen the military position of the United States in the region and enforce a policy of strength more efficiently. The author of the article points out that if it is really for detente they must certainly reduce the main combat personnel and main operational equipment. But, their plan for the “reduction” includes mainly non-combat personnel and old military equipment in a secondary branch.

The article says:

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has said:

“The main purpose of the U.S. imperialists in the Asia-Pacific region is to contain the socialist countries and progressive forces by ‘strength’ and establish their rights to dominate and control this region.”

The U.S. imperialists’ “Policy of Attaching Great Importance to Asia-Pacific Region” is, in essence, a policy of containing the socialist and progressive forces by strength to establish their rights to dominate and control this region.

Virtually the U.S. imperialists are ceaselessly increasing their aggressive armed forces behind the screen of the play of “reduction”.

For an instance, the U.S. imperialists have decided to replace the Yokosuka-based old carrier “Midway” with the ultra-large carrier “Independence” and are strengthening the naval and air forces in the Asian-Pacific region.

Particularly the U.S. imperialists intend to keep as ever their armed forces in South Korea, an anti-communist fortress and nuclear forward base of theirs, and are making efforts to modernize their equipment.

The U.S. imperialists are supplying new-type helicopters to their forces in South Korea, hastening the building of large-scale airfields for strategic bombers and planning to keep their naval fleet in the South Korean waters at all times. At the same time, they are urging the South Korean puppet army to increase its equipment with new type fighters, submarines, missiles, etc.

The “arms cut” plan of the U.S. imperialists is nothing but a deceptive one to mock the public opinion within and without and cover up their arms build-up and war preparations through the cutback of some military forces of no importance and a plan of readjustment of deployment for constantly implementing the aggressive Asia-Pacific strategy.

The U.S. imperialists’ strength-backed Asia-Pacific strategy is a product of the cold war period and does not accord to the trend of our times towards detente.

If the U.S. rulers truly want peace in the Asia-Pacific region and trust and cooperation among countries they should withdraw all their forces from this region and, to begin with take disarmament measures for real detente in the Korean peninsula fraught with the greatest danger of war and completely withdraw their troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea.

U.S. Army’s ‘Atrocities’ in South Assailed

SK1704105890 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032*
GMT 17 Apr 90

[“Atrocities of U.S. Imperialist Aggression Army in South Korea”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—U.S. imperialist aggression army men in South Korea committed more than 170 crimes in the first three months of March this year, according to the information released by the South Korean puppet police headquarters.

Inhabitants of South Korea suffered great damages from the crimes such as murder, gangsterism and theft.

The criminal acts of U.S. imperialist aggression army men occur in South Korea every day, but none of the criminals has been taken into custody.

Last year alone saw more than 810 crimes by U.S. imperialist aggression army men in South Korea.

Although the U.S. imperialist aggression army bandits commit all atrocities in South Korea, the No Tae-u group of the flunkeyists and traitors is zealous in defending its masters without uttering anything critical of them.

Photography, Film Exhibit Marks Lenin’s Birthday

SK1704214890 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1513*
GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—On the occasion of the 120th anniversary of birth of V.I. Lenin a photo exhibition and a film show were held at the Chollima House of Culture today under the co-sponsorship of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society.

Invited there were Charge D’affaires Ad Interim Boris Morozov and officials of the Soviet Embassy here and Soviet guests.

Present there were Yi Chong-yul, minister of public health and chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society, Yi In-kyu, vice-minister of foreign affairs, O Mun-han, vice-chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and other officials concerned and working people in the city.

Speeches were made at the opening ceremony of the photo exhibition.

The participants saw round photos showing the life and activities of V.I. Lenin.

Then followed the show of a Soviet feature film.

Anniversary of Relations With Portugal Noted

*SK1404112390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1050
GMT 14 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 14 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today observes the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Portugal.

Pointing out that the opening of diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level between the two countries on April 15, 1975, was a significant occasion in developing the friendly ties and economic and cultural relations between the Korean and Portuguese peoples, the paper notes:

Friendship is one of the main ideas of the foreign policy of our Republic. The DPRK Government on the basis of this idea, regards it as its consistent principle to make closer its friendly relations with the peoples who aspire to peace, independence and progress and establish good relations also with the capitalist countries friendly toward our country and develop economic and cultural exchange with them.

The understanding between our people and the Portuguese people is growing and the economic and cultural relations are getting closer.

Today the Portuguese people are endeavouring to achieve the country's development. We are following with interest their struggle for the development of the country and non-nuclear peace.

We believe that the relations between the DPRK and Portugal will develop more favourably in accordance with the aspiration, interests and the cause of peace of the two peoples.

A signed article of MINJU CHOSON stresses that the friendly and cooperative relations strengthening and developing between Korea and Portugal will greatly contribute to the building of an independent new world.

Daily Notes Founding of Cuban Communist Party

*SK1604055690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0519
GMT 16 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 16 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today dedicates an article to the 29th anniversary of the founding of the communist Party of Cuba (CPC).

Noting that the foundation of the CPC, on April 16, 1961, 29 years ago, was a historical event of great significance in the revolutionary struggle of the working class and people of other strata of Cuba, the author of the article says:

The CPC has victoriously led the revolutionary struggle of the Cuban people for 29 years since its foundation.

Under its leadership, the Cuban people have honorably defended the sovereignty of the country and the gains of the revolution and pressed ahead with the socialist revolution and construction, successfully repulsing the U.S. imperialist moves of aggression, intervention and blockade.

The CPC which has a history of rigorous and proud struggle is registering fresh achievements by guiding the people to implement the resolution of the 3rd party congress.

It regards it as the most important issue decisive of victory or defeat of the revolution and construction to strengthen the party and enhance its leadership role. Comrade Fidel Castro stressed that it is impossible to advance the revolution without a powerful, disciplined and respected party.

It is attributable to the correct leadership of the CPC headed by Comrade Fidel Castro and the close unity of the entire people behind the party that the Cuban people are triumphantly pressing with the revolution and construction in defiance of all trials and obstacles and holding aloft the banner of socialism under the very nose of the United States.

Recently, the anti-Cuba moves of the U.S. imperialists are becoming all the more unscrupulous than ever before. They were foolish enough to start a television program against the Cuban people and commit military provocations against them. However, such moves will only harden the will of the Cuban people. It is the rockfirm will of the Cuban people to uphold the banner of socialism to the end.

Today, the position of the communist party and the republic of Cuba is daily growing strong.

Both the parties and peoples of Korea and Cuba have covered a glorious path of the revolution and are now advancing under the banner of the revolution, the banner of socialism in direct confrontation with the U.S. imperialists.

Our two parties and peoples have struggled alongside for the cause of socialism, always supporting and cooperating with each other.

The Korean people have experienced in their life that the Cuban people are reliable comrades-in-arms and brethren who keep the revolutionary principles and comradely obligation even under the difficult and complex conditions. They are proud to have such intimate friends as the Cuban people in the Western hemisphere.

Our party and people will make every possible effort to further consolidate and develop the friendship and solidarity with the fraternal Cuban people.

O Chin-u Congratulates New Thai Minister

SK1604051890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457
GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 16 (KCNA)—Vice Marshal of the Korean People's Army O Chin-u, minister of people's armed forces, sent a message of greetings to General Chawalit Yongchaiyut upon his appointment as deputy prime minister and defence minister of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The message wishes him greater success in his responsible work for increasing the national defence capacity.

Kim Il-song Sends Syria Anniversary Message

SK1604091690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0854
GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 16 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today sent a message of greetings to President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic on the 44th anniversary of the independence of Syria.

The message says:

Since the independence, the Syrian Arab people have registered great successes in the struggle to safeguard the country's sovereignty and build a prosperous new society, repulsing the ceaseless aggression and intervention by the imperialists and Zionists.

The Korean people send the Syrian Arab people a firm solidarity in their righteous struggle to build the national economy on the principle of self-reliance, regain the occupied Arab lands and bring just peace to the Middle East under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Baath Party led by you.

Expressing the belief that the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries will further strengthen and develop, the message wishes the Syrian president and his people greater successes in the future struggle for the country's independent development.

Special Envoy of Kim Il-song Leaves for Zimbabwe

SK1404111490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1057
GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 14 (KCNA)— Vice-President Pak Song-chol left here today to attend celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the independence of Zimbabwe as special envoy of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

He was seen off at the airport by Vice-President Yi Chong-ok, Vice-Foreign Minister Yi In-kyu, Ethiopian ambassador to Korea Fisseha Geda and an official of the Chinese Embassy.

Kim Il-song Sends Greetings on Zimbabwe Founding

SK1704113490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1047
GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on April 16 sent a message of greetings to Robert G. Mugabe, first secretary and president of the Central Committee of the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front and president of the Republic of Zimbabwe, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

Pointing out that the founding of the Republic of Zimbabwe was an important event which opened up a vast road to the building of an independent new life for the Zimbabwean people, the message says:

During the last 10 years since the founding of the Republic, the Zimbabwean people, under your correct leadership, have registered great successes in the struggle to resolutely oppose imperialism, colonialism and racism, firmly defend the country's sovereignty, consolidate the national cohesion and to build a prosperous new Zimbabwe.

The Korean people heartily rejoice over your successes gained in the building of a new society as their own and extend firm solidarity to your people, advancing vehemently today without suspension along the road of socialist development to build national economy and culture.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere wishes for the greater successes in the future struggle of you and your people to achieve the country's prosperity and finally end racism and apartheid in the land of Africa through implementation of the decisions made at the National People's Congress of Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front.

The message stresses:

I am convinced that the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation existing between our two countries

will further strengthen and develop through common struggle for independence against imperialism.

Dailies Mark 10th Anniversary

SK1804053390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0502 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 18 (KCNA)—Dailies here today dedicate articles to the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

The birth of the new Republic was a precious fruition of the protracted arduous struggle waged by the Zimbabwean people and an event which brought about an epochal turn in the history of the country, a signed article of NODONG SINMUN says. It notes:

The decade long period covered by the Republic of Zimbabwe has been a course of a proud struggle and victory to firmly defend the revolutionary gains from the moves of the enemies at home and abroad and days of creation to build a free and prosperous new society. A great turn has taken place in Zimbabwe in different fields, political, economic and cultural.

The article continues:

Recently Comrade Robert G. Mugabe was reelected president. This was a clear manifestation of the invariable desire and will of the Zimbabwean people to build a peaceful and united new Zimbabwe under his leadership.

The president declared recently that Zimbabwe would continue taking the road of socialist development it had chosen, rejecting the introduction of the multi-party system preached by the imperialists.

The Korean people warmly congratulate the Zimbabwean people on their achievements in building a new society and express full support to and solidarity with them in their just cause.

Several meetings between Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Robert G. Mugabe marked important milestones in bringing the friendly and cooperative relations between the two peoples to a new stage.

The Korean people will make all efforts to further strengthen and develop these friendly and cooperative relations.

The author of a MINJU CHOSON article says:

The Korean people wish the Zimbabwean people greater success in their struggle for the independent development and prosperity of the country.

Kim Yong-nam Congratulates Zimbabwe Counterpart

SK1404231790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1521 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 14 (KCNA)—Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam sent a message of greetings to Nathan

Shamuyarira upon his reappointment as foreign minister of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

It expresses the belief that the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation existing between the two countries will continue to develop favourably in all realms in the future.

South Korea

IAEA Expects North Compliance by September

SK1804094390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0924 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) expects North Korea to sign a full-scope nuclear safeguards agreement in compliance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty by September, a high-ranking IAEA official said here Wednesday.

"We expect North Korea to conclude the agreement before the IAEA General Assembly meeting in September," Boris Semenov, deputy director general of the international organization, told reporters.

The Soviet nuclear expert, now visiting Seoul to attend the 5th annual joint conference of the Korea Atomic Industrial Forum and the Korean Nuclear Society, said the expectation is not a "prediction" but a "hope."

"IAEA is very eager to conclude negotiations with North Korea as soon as possible and some measures are being taken to accelerate that process," he said.

Semenov said the IAEA and North Korean authorities had been holding bilateral discussions on the text of the agreement. He said that three to four paragraphs of the text have yet to be worded to mutual satisfaction. North Korea has been under mounting pressure to sign the agreement, which would enable the IAEA to inspect its nuclear facilities.

Touching on the IAEA's binding force, he said, "IAEA is not a police force and the safeguards agreement should be made on a voluntary basis." Semenov said he got the impression that nuclear power plants in South Korea are run in a "superb" manner during his visit to two plants in Kori and Wolsong.

Commenting on the Chernobyl nuclear mishap four years ago, he said newspaper reports on the aftermaths of the incident are not supported scientifically and they have been exaggerated.

North Expected To Propose Talks on UN Membership

SK1804023490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 18 Apr 90 pp 1, 4

[Text] Seoul (AP)—South Korean officials expect north Korea to propose soon that the two rival Koreas join the United Nations under a single country name, said a Seoul newspaper Tuesday.

The SEKYE TIMES, quoting unidentified government officials, said Seoul has learned from East European and Japanese diplomatic sources that north Korea plans to propose talks soon to discuss joint U.N. membership. The newspaper said north Korean U.N. observer Pak Kil-yon presented the proposal to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in early February and appealed for support while the north presents the plan to the south.

The newspaper said the north's proposal is expected to include agreeing to a common country name, with the governments of the two Koreas alternately representing the Koreas at the world body in New York. It said Seoul officials consider the plan unrealistic and are studying unspecified counterproposals. The Foreign Ministry declined comment on the report.

The proposal, if made by north Korea, would signal a change in thinking on U.N. membership and also could be interpreted as a block to south Korea's efforts to obtain membership on its own.

Foreign Ministry To Invite UN Envoys, Officials

SK1704013890 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
17 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] Several ambassadors to the United Nations and officials at the U.N. secretariat will be invited to visit South Korea during the early half of this year to promote understanding of the Korean situation.

The ambassadors from Malaysia, Finland, Canada, Colombia and Zaire, non-permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, will be among the guests, Foreign Ministry officials said Monday.

Ronald Spiers, undersecretary-general for political and general assembly affairs and secretariat services of the United Nations, will also be invited.

Eric Suy, a consultant to the Belgian cabinet and former U.N. undersecretary-general for legal affairs, is currently in Seoul as a ministry guest.

Some diplomatic observers here see the invitation of foreign diplomats well-versed in U.N. affairs as part of preparations for Seoul to seek entry into the world body this year, but ministry officials dismissed the invitations as part of a routine program the ministry conducts every year.

Hyon Hong-chu Named Ambassador to United Nations

SK1704030890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0304 GMT
17 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—Hyon Hong-chu, former minister of legislation, was named ambassador to the United Nations on Tuesday [17 April], replacing Pak Sang-yong.

Hyon, 50, will go to New York in the middle of May to take up his post after consultations with the Foreign Ministry on the issue of Korea's joining the world body. Pak was transferred to the Foreign Ministry.

Hyon is now visiting China and the Soviet Union to discuss with their leaders the improvement of relations with Seoul and Korea's U.N. entry.

A graduate of Seoul National University's Law College, Hyon was a prosecutor until he was made deputy director of the Agency for National Security Planning in 1980.

He was elected to the National Assembly with the then-ruling Democratic Justice Party in 1985 and served as legislation minister from 1988 until a cabinet shakeup March 17.

Brings Varied Experience to Post

SK1804015090 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES
in English 18 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] Hyon Hong-chu, who spent his first 10 years of public service at prosecution offices and the ensuing 10 years at an intelligence agency is making his debut on the diplomatic stage as ambassador to the United Nations.

The 49-year-old close confidant of President No Tae-u is well versed in foreign relations, in particular those involving the United States, through special missions he performed for the Chief Executive. He was appointed legislation minister in No's inaugural Cabinet in February 1988 and laid the legal ground for democratic reforms until his resignation last month.

But he was more enthusiastic than he was with his proper work when he was commissioned to prepare for No's visits to the United States three times—once as ruling party leader and twice as head of state.

He first accompanied No on his tour to Washington in September 1987, just three months before a presidential vote, a visit largely devoted to No's introduction to U.S. leaders and image-making for the general-turned political novice both in the internal and external arenas.

Hyon, then deputy secretary general of No's party, did all that an excellent aide could do to make No's trip a success, arranging a meeting with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, drafting an address to American-Koreans, interpreting his speech at Georgetown University and even instructing him in his gestures.

After his boss was chosen to be president and armed with established diplomatic staff, he was also dispatched to the United States to unofficially back preparations for No's journeys in October 1988 and a year later.

Hyon's activity was so vigorous as to provoke Amb. Pak Tong-chin to the United States, No's senior at a Taegu high school, into threatening to resign in the course of preparations for his visits.

Vice Foreign Minister Yu Chong-ha commented, "His appointment as UN ambassador reflects the administration's readiness to drive for the membership of the world body. We have now reached the final stage to accomplishing our top-priority goal."

Young officials, frowning on the losing of a top diplomatic seat, see things differently from Yu. Many of them regard his appointment as a result of a defeat in a sort of power game with Pak Chol-on, No's other favorite, who would not let his brilliant rival join the presidential staff.

As a high-ranking intelligence official, Hyon collaborated with Yu in calming down a bribery scandal involving a Korean lobbyist in Washington in the late 1970s and with Kong No-myong, now head of the Korean consular department in Moscow, in handling a hijacking of a Chinese civil airliner by freedom-seekers in 1983.

'No Basic Changes' Expected in DPRK Elections

SK1794025890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0250 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Koreans will elect 655 members of the Supreme People's Assembly on April 22, in general elections called some six months earlier than usual, but South Korean analysts agree the result will be just more of the same one-man rule for the communist North.

Even if the elections set the stage to test socio-political modifications reflecting the reforms in Eastern Europe, there will be no basic changes, they say.

The North Korean government has been beating the drums for adhesion to the socialist system since last year-end to prevent the sweeping reforms and democratization of Eastern Europe from affecting the world's most closed communist society. Having seen the weakness of its isolation policy, the government may seek minor changes through the elections, according to the analysts.

North Korean President Kim Il-song was installed as the candidate from Nagwon Machines Confederation in Shinuiju, Northern Pyongan Province, on April 1 and his son and heir-apparent Kim Chong-il was made a candidate from a constituency in Musan, Northern Hamgyong Province, on April 4.

Analysts say the elections will be dressed up to give the impression of a multi-party system, with the Socialist

Democratic Party and Chongudang, which promotes the indigenous religion Chondogyo, and other social organizations gaining more Assembly seats.

It is likely that Kim Il-song will yield the Presidency, which he has held since 1948, when the communist country was formally founded following the division in 1945 of the Korean peninsula, to his son after the elections while retaining his post as general secretary of the ruling Workers (communist) Party, the analysts say.

Other North Korean watchers say the senior Kim, still going strong at 78, will not transfer the Presidency to his son because of the difficulties his country faces internally and internationally.

Either way, the elections will offer a clear picture of Kim Chong-il's status in the leadership and put a large number of his followers on the political frontline.

The Supreme People's Assembly has comprehensive authority over amendment of the constitution, policy making, election of the president and other important matters, but in actuality functions as a rubber-stamp institution ratifying the party's decisions.

The assembly has three committees—dealing with law bills, budget and qualifications of members—but they are operated on a non-permanent basis.

Changes in North 'Nothing More Than Mockery'

SK1804020490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 18 Apr 90 p 8

[Editorial: "Is North Korea Changing?"]

[Text] Has north Korea changed? Is it likely to change soon? These nagging questions will draw anything but an affirmative answer as things now stand. The Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and most of the rest of the Communist bloc have changed drastically for the better. Much to our chagrin, north Korea has yet to stir an inch out of the bad old rut of isolationism, autocracy and revolutionary adventurism.

The massive turnout of north Koreans to celebrate the 78th birthday of President Kim Il-song on Sunday in a gesture aimed at paying homage and pledging loyalty to the dictator is an eloquent statement on the oppressiveness and fanaticism still prevailing in the Communist-ruled part of the Korean Peninsula.

About 150,000 north Koreans, including school children, teachers and government officials, were mobilized for a rally at May Day Stadium in north Korea's capital, Pyongyang, where they listened to speeches glorifying Kim. Similar groups across the country joined in wild celebrations true to the north Korean tradition of a frenzied personality cult.

Some of the peculiar recent developments included the absence of Kim and his son and heir apparent, Kim Chong-il, from the rally and the premature convocation

of the Supreme People's Assembly next week. In the meantime, the Pyongyang leadership dropped hints that it might allow a multiparty system to dupe world public opinion.

North Korea has kept a farcical multiparty system by setting up a few make-believe political parties and front organizations with false religious tinges. They are much worse than rubber-stamping bodies, being in the service of the almighty ruling Workers Party.

Under these circumstances, it is meaningless for Pyongyang to institute an apparent multiparty system or a free and secret ballot which could operate in name only. Such a change should be effected in deed, not in word. Whether north Korea would undertake that much nominal reform is in doubt. Even if the north went that far, it would be nothing more than a mockery.

It is not yet clear what Radio Pyongyang meant when it said on Kim's birthday that the question of succession has been resolved. Barring an upheaval in the north Korean hierarchy, the absurd dynastic succession of monolithic power into the hands of the junior Kim is a foregone conclusion. Charges of anachronism will not daunt the adamant Kims determined on holding the uninformed and emaciated north Korean populace in their tight grip for some time to come.

Permission Granted for Three North Contacts

SK1804070290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0637 GMT
18 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—Three South Koreans have received government permission to contact North Koreans, one of whom is Choe Yong-hae, a member of the Central Committee of the Workers (Communist) Party, a spokesman for the national unification board said Wednesday.

Chang Chae-kuk, president of a vernacular newspaper HANGUK ILBO, was given permission Tuesday to send a letter to Choe, who is also chairman of the League of Socialist Working Youth of North Korea, in order to invite some 10 boys and girls to celebrate children's day here May 5.

Yi Sang-u, acting president of the daily SEOUL SIN-MUN, won approval to contact Kim Kyong-pong, president of the Academy of Sciences, through a Chinese intermediary, about the newspaper's plan to do a story on wild flowers in North Korea.

Yi Su-yong, president of the Korea skating union, was told he may send a letter to his northern counterpart, Kim Nam-kyo, about a North Korean team taking part in an international speed skating event in Seoul on May 19-20.

Joint Military Teams Patrol Itaewon Area

SK1804021690 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 18 Apr 90 p 3

[Text] Korea and the United States conduct joint nightly patrols in Itaewon in order to prevent any recurrence of fighting between Koreans and American GIs.

Two teams, each comprising one Korean police officer, one U.S. military policeman and a KATUSA [Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army] soldier, were engaged in joint patrols in the Itaewon entertainment district between Monday night and early Tuesday [17 April] morning, a Korean police spokesman said yesterday.

The patrol took place between 11:30 p.m. Monday and around 2 a.m. the following day, according to the spokesman. He said the patrol, requested by the U.S. armed forces, will continue indefinitely. Effective last Friday, Itaewon was placed off limits for American soldiers, civilian workers and their dependents between Midnight and 5 a.m.

The action has been prompted by the April 8 incident in which Korean civilians and American military police officers fought in the entertainment district.

Press Reporting on Incident

SK1804051190

[Editorial Report] Seoul vernacular papers on 13 and 14 April carry editorials on the so-called "Itaewon Incident," a scuffle between Korean passers-by and U.S. Forces personnel that took place in Itaewon, Seoul.

CHUNGANG ILBO on 13 April on page two carries a 1,000-word editorial entitled "ROK-U.S. Relations and the Itaewon Incident." Expressing concern over the minor scuffle between individuals escalating into an emotional confrontation between the peoples of the two countries, the editorial says that the U.S. military side should cooperate with the Korean authorities in investigating the incident. After saying that such an incident is common between peoples who cannot communicate with each other because of language barriers, the editorial stresses that it was accidental and, therefore, should be handled in a coolheaded manner instead of letting it escalate into an emotional issue.

Noting the worrisome aftermath of the U.S. military authorities' act of prohibiting U.S. military personnel from venturing out into the area where the incident took place, the editorial says: "We fear that such a common nocturnal traffic incident would result in stirring up national sentiment." Saying that "what needs to be done at this juncture is to unveil the true cause of this incident," the editorial expresses regret over the fact that the U.S. side did not show up in a joint fact-finding investigation, as well as over the U.S. military authorities' attempt to justify the U.S. soldiers' act in information distributed to news organizations.

It then states: "What is clear is that Korea and the United States should stand on a mature and equal footing in practice, not in rhetoric alone. The U.S. Forces stationed in Korea should adjust their position and standard of conduct accordingly."

In conclusion, the editorial says: "The government should accelerate the negotiations, started in 1988, but have been delayed for years, to revise the ROK-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement, in particular to remove the unfair clauses concerning jurisdiction."

CHOSON ILBO on 14 April on page three carries a 1,000-word editorial entitled "The Itaewon Incident." The editorial, questioning why the U.S. military authorities went so far as to ban personnel of U.S. Forces stationed in Korea from venturing out into the pleasure street called "Itaewon," said that "while its aftereffect will be enormous, the root cause of such an extraordinary measure was just a common and trifle incident." Then, the editorial calls the ban imposed on the U.S. soldiers as being a little too excessive and expressed hope that such an interpretation of the U.S. military step would turn out to be far removed from reality.

Noting the accidental nature of the incident, the editorial criticizes some domestic newspapers for describing the incident as "one between the Koreans and the U.S. military."

In conclusion, the editorial states: "Korea and the United States should adopt such an attitude as trying to localize and regard such incidents that are likely to crop up in the future as simple accidents." "Except for incidents that cannot be construed as routine and common ones that have unmistakable racial undertone," the editorial urges papers to treat such incidents as "a scuffle in which John pushed Kim and Kim shoved John" rather than ones in which "U.S. soldiers beat up Koreans and Koreans used violence against the U.S. soldiers," saying that "they need this attitude more than ever."

HANGUK ILBO on 14 April on page two carries a 1,000-word editorial under the heading "The 'Scuffle in Itaewon' Should Not Be Allowed To Escalate Further." The editorial says what needs to be done is for both parties involved to make joint efforts to unveil the true cause. The editorial says "it was regrettable that the U.S. side stayed away from the investigation and that it circulated information among the news organizations to try to justify the soldiers' actions."

Then, the editorial says: "It is not desirable to allow such a common, trivial incident to be treated as a result of anti-U.S. sentiment and if such an interpretation of the incident kept the U.S. military authorities from taking part in a joint investigation, the controversy can escalate and take an unexpected course."

SEOUL SINMUN on 14 April on page two carries a 1,000-word editorial headlined "The Itaewon Incident and ROK-U.S. Relations." Noting the escalation of a

routine scuffle between Korean passers-by and U.S. soldiers in a tourist street in Seoul into an emotional confrontation, the editorial expresses regret over it. It then says: "It may be the exaggerated view" and "an excessive sense of superiority" on the part of the U.S. military personnel that may have led them to ban U.S. soldiers from entering the area."

The editorial continues: "In fact, gone are the days when one could say 'everything is going fine as far as the ROK-U.S. relations are concerned.'" People now seem to be more inclined to go to the last word in distinguishing between right and wrong in an argument that would have caused no controversy in the past. This shows that there is a need to adjust and improve the relations of alliance and friendship that have been unconditional over the past 40 years. This cannot be explained merely as a xenophobic or anti-U.S. sentiment. It may be a sign of the changing times or development. Above all, however, it should be seen as something the two countries would inevitably encounter in the course of changing their relationship from the past vertical one to horizontal one."

In conclusion, the editorial urges the two countries to "revise the Status of Forces Agreement" and the "clause governing the jurisdiction in particular" and change their views of the other.

U.S. Threatens Restrictions if Trade Not Opened

*SK1804022190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0201 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Seoul, April 18 (OANA-YONHAP)—The United States warned South Korea on Tuesday [17 Apr] that access to U.S. construction projects may be limited if Seoul fails to open government procurement contracts to U.S. bidders.

During the first day of working-level discussions at the Foreign Ministry, the United States asked Korea to supply a list by the end of the month of public institutions whose procurements would be opened to American businesses, a government source said.

Failure to submit the list would force Washington to name Korea a nation committing discrimination under the U.S. trade act and to restrict Korean participation in large-scale construction projects conducted by public institutions, the U.S. side said.

The Korean side, led by Son Chun-yong, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's International Trade Bureau, rejected the U.S. request, explaining that Seoul was seeking to join the agreement on government procurement of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the source said.

The U.S. delegation, headed by Nancy Adams, trade representative in charge of the Asia-Pacific area, asked for a copy of the admission application to be sent to Washington by the end of this month, before it is sent to

GATT, suggesting that this would help Korea avoid unfavorable treatment. The Koreans dismissed the implied threat, saying that joining the GATT agreement required multilateral and not bilateral negotiations.

Apparently mindful that Seoul's attempts to combat current economic stagnation could slow down its market opening, the Americans urged their Korean counterparts not to adopt a policy of restricting imports of consumer goods. They also requested that Korea lower tariffs on wine and ease customs and quarantine procedures for U.S. fruit.

The U.S. package demand included lifting a ban on imports of peaches, pecans, papaya, strawberries, orange juice and other farm products, loosening standards on electric, electronic and medical equipment and easing safety and agro-chemical inspection of food, according to the source. The U.S. delegation protested Korea's imposition of a 50 percent emergency duty on canned pork.

Further opening of Korea's insurance, film and communications markets was also requested.

The Korean delegation asked the Americans to ease the complicated procedures for importing Korean apples and urge U.S. tobacco companies to stop illegal advertising and sales promotion of their goods in Korea, the source said.

Officials from the two sides will discuss Korea's opening of the service and motion picture markets during the second session of their two-day meeting Wednesday.

Editorial Examines Issue of Nationals in Japan

SK1804011490 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES
in English 18 Apr 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Japan's Political Decision"]

[Text] Korea and Japan need to work out a substantial agreement on the issue of Korean residents in Japan before President No Tae-u's official visit to Tokyo scheduled for late next month. With the expiration of the 25-year-old Korea-Japan Normalization Treaty on Jan. 16, next year, the governments of the two countries have stepped up their mutual negotiations particularly on the question of the legal status of third-generation Koreans but no break-through has been made so far.

Without any tangible accord on the chronic issue, the scheduled visit to Japan has little significance. The opposition has pointedly demanded that No cancel his visit, unless the pending problems between the neighboring countries are settled. In fact, there are no reports that the ongoing working-level talks between Korean and Japanese officials have made any progress.

In this situation, it is a timely suggestion that the Korea-Japan issue be resolved through political considerations. President No Tae-u asserted in his meeting with former Japanese prime minister Noboru Takeshita

Monday, that a political decision of the Japanese government is important in solving the question of the legal status of third-generation Koreans in Japan.

The problem of their legal status involves the granting of permanent resident status in Japan and other legal rights to third-generation Koreans, especially the abolition of fingerprinting and deportation upon conviction of a crime. For first and second-generation Koreans, permanent residential born in that country no legal provisions were made in 1965 to govern them, leaving the issue for future consultations and agreement between the two countries upon the expiration of the treaty.

As against the Korean government's position calling for the same legal rights for third-generation Koreans as their ancestors, the Japanese side has stuck to the basic policy that there should be no distinction between Koreans and persons from other foreign countries. Because of this, the Koreans there are unduly discriminated against by the Japanese in their social life, with the denial of opportunities for employment as public officials and school teachers as well as social welfare benefits, not to mention franchise.

From the legal point of view, the Japanese government is not wrong to regard Koreans as foreigners as others are, equally subject to its laws and systems. But the Japanese must answer the impelling question how the Koreans at issue were first brought to that country by Japanese authority. There is no denying that the plight of the Koreans there is the ultimate consequence of the Japanese imperialistic invasion of Korea in violation of prevailing international law and practices.

It is to be noted that third-generation Koreans are the descendants of their forefathers or foremothers who were removed from Korea as forced laborers, military draftees of [as published] conscripted females for sex entertainment for Japanese soldiers during the Second World War. Yet, they are faithfully discharging their legal duties just like Japanese nationals, despite visible and invisible discrimination from the Japanese government and its people.

It is natural that the Japanese government should address the pending issue with a political decision or an extraordinary measure admitting that the Korean residents are there in a non-legal, extraordinary situation. In this respect, President No's call for a political settlement of the issue is appropriate.

Former Japanese premier Takeshita reportedly promised that he would exert efforts to foster an atmosphere conducive to the settlement of the issue. His promise to "do his best" must not end with the rhetoric of politicians, since a legal solution on the part of the Japanese government seems to have reached its limits.

Seoul Lifts Travel Restrictions to 4 Countries

SK1704115390 Seoul YONHAP in English 1113 GMT
17 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government decided Tuesday to lift restrictions on travels to Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania and Mongolia as follow-ups to recent establishments of diplomatic relations with those countries.

A working-level meeting of the inter-ministry "Council for Promoting Northern Diplomacy" decided to exclude those four countries from the list of the communist countries for which the official "guidelines on exchanges and cooperations with northern countries" are applied.

The decision reduced the number of communist countries subject to the guidelines from the previous 14 to eight. The eight countries are the Soviet Union, China, East Germany, Albania, Vietnam, Laos, Kampuchea and Cuba, which are yet to have full diplomatic relations with South Korea.

The participants of the meeting, which comprises representatives of 14 different government ministries, also discussed agenda items expected to be raised in negotiations with the Soviet Union. They reviewed reports filed earlier by a ruling party delegation which visited Moscow recently.

The meeting discussed issues concerning a scheduled dispatch of a government delegation to the Soviet Union, but did not make final decisions on its size and the timing of its visit, said Yi Chong-pin, first assistant foreign minister, who presided over the meeting. South Korea has sought to send a government delegation to Moscow to discuss issues related with its bid to set up an official tie between the two countries.

Committee Denies Request for Officials' Testimony

SK1704023090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0204 GMT
17 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—Opposition lawmakers harried their colleagues from across the aisle on the first of two days of National Assembly Standing Committee meetings Monday [16 April], raising questions about charges of "political maneuvering" and of secret goings on during a week-long trip to Moscow last month.

An opposition resolution requesting Kim Yong-sam, Pak Chul-on and National Security Planning Director So Tong-kwon to testify on the alleged political maneuvering was rejected by the Home Affairs Committee, which the ruling party controls.

Five Standing Committees met Monday to handle pending national issues, including political maneuvering, postponement of a system requiring use of real names in financial transactions, soaring rents and alleged vote buying.

"We can hardly conduct investigations of political maneuvering based on rumors or unconfirmed reports in the newspapers because they are not evidence," Justice Minister Yi Chong-nam told the Legislation-Judiciary Committee.

"We cannot probe every rumor floating around the political scene," he said.

First State Minister Pak Chul-on boasted last week that he could destroy ruling party leader Kim Yong-sam's political life overnight if he revealed Kim's activities behind the three-party merger and during his Moscow visit.

In response to Pak's tirade, Kim charged that he and his deputies were victims of political maneuvering, giving the opposition windfall ammunition for a political offensive.

Kim, a lifelong oppositionist transformed into a ruling party leader by the merger of his party with the ruling party and fellow leader Kim Chong-pil's party, did not reveal the details of his charges but aides contended that his telephone may have been tapped and his political fund raisers put under surveillance by intelligence agents.

The Party for Peace and Democracy and another opposition group are expected to introduce a resolution on testimony by Kim, Pak and So on political maneuvering in the Legislation-Judiciary Committee Tuesday [17 April]. The majority party is sure to block the resolution, political sources said.

In the Finance and Economy-Science Committees, opposition lawmakers urged the government to drop its plan to shelve the real-name financial transaction system.

Finance Minister Chong Yong-ui said the government would not retract the announcement because suspension is in the interests of the economy.

Ministers Testify on KBS Strike, By-Election

SK1804025090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0219 GMT
18 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—Lawmakers grilled administration officials about charges of political maneuvering, alleged vote buying in the April 3 by-elections, the cancellation of the real-name financial system and other issues in five National Assembly Standing Committee sessions Tuesday [17 Apr].

The second and final day of all-party questioning failed to produce clear answers because of the government's lukewarm attitude and disputes among members of the Judiciary-Legislation, Home Affairs, Finance, Economy-Science and Construction Committees.

In the Home Affairs Committee, Home Minister An Ung-mo said he neither persuaded nor forced former

ruling party Rep. Chong Ho-yong to drop out of the by-election in Taegu when he met Chong at a Taegu hotel "by chance" at the end of March. Chong withdrew from the race under pressure from the ruling camp and ruling party Candidate Mun hui-kap won the seat.

National Police Director Kim U-hyon testified that police are investigating allegations that money was distributed by Mun in the election, but that none of those suspected of handing out bribes have yet admitted it.

An said riot police were sent into the headquarters of the state-run Korea Broadcasting System (KBS) at the request of KBS President So Ki-won. The nationwide TV and radio network has been paralyzed by a work stoppage since the police hauled off hundreds of KBS staff on Thursday [12 Apr] evening. Thousands of KBS employees have staged sit-in protests and are demanding the resignation of So, who they say is pro-government and called in the police.

The Culture and Information Committee will meet Thursday to discuss the KBS incident.

At the Judiciary-Legislation Committee, Justice Minister Yi Chong-nam said he did not intend to order the prosecution to investigate allegations of political maneuvering on the basis of newspaper articles.

Kim Yong-sam, one of three co-leaders of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), claims he is a victim of political maneuvering and has had his phone tapped and his aides watched by security agents.

In the Economy-Science Committee, Deputy Prime Minister Yi Sung-yun said the government has no intention of taking steps to rescue the stock market. Opposition lawmakers pressed hard in the Finance and Economy-Science Committees on the predicament of the stock market.

To curb corporate real estate speculation, the government will impose a 7.5-fold heavier real estate acquisition tax on business than on non-business real estate, Yi said.

KBS Bureau Chiefs Support Striking Workers

*SK1804014090 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES
in English 18 Apr 90 p 3*

[Text] The KBS [Korean Broadcast System] turmoil surrounding the appointment of So Ki-won as its new president remained knotted yesterday even though a majority of bureau chiefs supported striking employees for "their efforts for democratization of broadcasting."

Forty-seven out of 72 bureau chiefs of the state-run Korea Broadcasting System said in a joint statement that they fully support the efforts of KBS employees to seek "democratic" broadcasting. The statement criticized president So's call for police intervention for being "rash" although he was legally appointed as the head of the nation's largest broadcasting network.

However, the KBS's executive members called on all KBS employees to return to work for the earlier normalization of broadcasting, which has been crippled for the past six days. They also demanded that the government revise the current appointment system of the KBS president to safeguard the independence and neutrality of the public network.

"No punitive measures should be taken against employees for joining the massive walkout," the statement said, adding all bureau chiefs would resign from their posts with the normalization of broadcasting.

On hearing the statement of the bureau chiefs, the emergency committee of KBS employees welcomed it as a "courageous" decision. But the statement didn't fully meet the expectations of all KBS employees, it added.

About 2,000 KBS employees, demanding the resignation of president So, continued a sit-in protest at the main building in Yoido and most regular programs of the network were rerun or replaced with documentaries and music.

Meanwhile, Kang Won-yong, head of the Korea Broadcasting Commission, discussed the current KBS situation with president So and union representatives in separate meetings. The commission chairman was quoted as saying that he would hear broad opinions from the nation's broadcasting circles before delivering an official statement.

President So told reporters yesterday that he has no intention of resigning from his post at the moment because he should carry out his legal duties as KBS president.

"My resignation is a matter which should be discussed after operation of the nationwide broadcasting network is normalized," he added.

Deputy Prime Minister Speaks on Economic Policy

*SK1604065490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0636 GMT
16 Apr 90*

[Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP)—The government is firmly committed to the comprehensive economic policy outlined April 4 and will stick with the economic goals set for this year since an instant recovery is unlikely, Deputy Prime Minister Yi Sung-yun said Monday.

The targets are 6.5 percent gross national product growth, a current account surplus of 2 billion U.S. dollars and an inflation rate of 5-7 percent.

It is hard to expect the economy to recover in the first half, but the effects of the April 4 measures are likely to show up in the latter half of the year, Yi said in an interview.

The measures included cancellation of a system requiring the use of real names in financial transactions

and a massive injection of funds into businesses to promote investment and exports.

Yi, who is also economic planning minister, said a planned sharp reduction in income tax rates would be postponed along with the real-name system and a composite capital gains tax.

The government has been working to substantially lower the overall income tax rate, and will introduce a wide-ranging reform of the tax system and raise the upper limit for tax exemption to help lighten the tax burden on workers, Yi said.

Touching on criticism that the April 4 measures will cause inflation, Yi said the funds to be channeled to industry would not cause inflation because they would be tightly linked with production.

An estimated 2 trillion won (about 2.857 billion U.S. dollars) will be injected into businesses in various loans, including 1 trillion won in special facility funds.

Diagnosing the Korean economy as in a critical state, Yi said the measures would greatly help to revive the economy if carried out steadily.

Yi, who took over the top economic post in a cabinet shakeup last month, stressed that the measures are mainly centered on the revitalization of businesses.

The government will strictly regulate the money to prevent it from flying into non-manufacturing fields, including service industry, and plans to apply stringent monetary policy to absorb the increase in the money supply in financial sectors, he said.

The deputy prime minister said the government will strictly crack down on real estate speculation but ruled out a presidential emergency decree to curb land speculation, which is said to be a crucial factor behind the economic recession.

To promote economic relations with communist countries, the government will make efforts to conclude various economic pacts, including investment guarantees and accords on science and technology, he said.

The government also plans to invest in the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to help Korean businesses make inroads into the Soviet Union and East-bloc nations, he said.

He revealed that private trading firms have been engaged in indirect trade with North Korea via third countries and the accumulated value has reached 20 million dollars.

The government is making an effort to drastically expand the trade, including seeking early resumption of the stalemated economic talks with the North, he said.

North Korea's sincere attitude is a prerequisite for the promotion of inter-Korean trade, he added.

To ease the risk to South Korean businesses in trading with North Korea, the government will map out ways to increase financial support, according to the deputy prime minister.

Firms Moving Abroad To Avoid Import Barriers

SK1704015290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0138 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (OANA-YONHAP)—Businesses are fleeing South Korea in droves to escape rising production costs and falling competitive edges and to hurdle import barriers, a Bank of Korea (BOK) report said Tuesday.

Korean companies got approval to invest 383 million U.S. dollars in 125 overseas projects in the first quarter, up 201.7 percent in value and 78.6 percent in number of projects over the same period of the previous year, said the central bank report on overseas investment.

By sector, manufacturing came first with 64 projects (36 million dollars), or 51.2 percent of the total, followed by trading at 23.7 percent.

Within manufacturing, textiles and footwear took top spot with 23 projects (36 million dollars), prefabricated metals and machinery came next with 11 projects (18 million dollars) and then petrochemicals with six projects (49 million dollars).

Southeast Asia absorbed 73 projects (162 million dollars), North America took 30 projects (164 million dollars) and Latin America seized 10 projects (13 million dollars).

Overseas investment by small businesses swelled 87.8 percent to 77 projects (60 million dollars), compared with 41 projects (40 million dollars) in the corresponding period last year.

Trade Ministry Announces Appointments

SK1604130690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0816 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP)—The Trade and Industry Ministry announced on Monday that Sin Kuk-hwan has been named the new assistant minister for trade: Kim Kyong-man, director general of the basic industry bureau: Kim Hong-kyong, head of the medium- and small-sized companies bureau: Yi Ki-song, trade cooperation officer: and Kim Sun, auditor.

Kim Tae-chun and Yu Tuk-hwan were appointed standing commissioner and head of trade research, respectively, for the Korean Trade Commission under the ministry while So Chong-hun was made dean of faculty of the International Interlecturer Protect Training Institute (IIPTI) and Chon Kye-muk named head of the National Industrial Research Institute.

Yi Chong-ku and O Yong-kyo are expected to be named commercial attache to the permanent mission in the

European community and commercial attache to the embassy in Tokyo, respectively, according to the ministry.

Summons for Cardinal Kim Denied in So Case

SK1704021090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0131 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—Defense counsel in the appeals hearing of Rep. So Kyong-won, convicted of illegally visiting North Korea, and 10 others found guilty in connection with So's case, stalked out of court Monday afternoon when judges refused to summon Stephen Cardinal Kim Su-hwan as a witness.

The Seoul Appellate Court had said the Roman Catholic primate would be called as a witness in connection with So's clandestine trip to Pyongyang in 1988 only if he volunteered, but the cardinal did not attend the session.

So's lawyers asked the bench to summon the cardinal and when the request was turned down they walked out,

saying there was no way to help their client unless the testimony of their sole witness was allowed.

Prosecutors were to demand a penalty for So in Monday's session. The next and fifth session will be Saturday.

So, dismissed by the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) after his trip was discovered, was sentenced to 15 years in prison last December for violation of the national security law stemming from his visit to Pyongyang and meeting with leaders there.

The Catholic claims he visited Cardinal Kim after returning from North Korea and to discuss the trip.

The court said it was unnecessary to summon the cardinal because there were no differences between his statement to the police and So's assertions.

The cardinal, whose testimony in court would be unprecedented, reportedly decided not to attend the session at the advice of some senior Catholics.

Burma**Martial Law Lifted in 10 Upper Burma Townships***BK1804143590 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 18 Apr 90*

[Text] The State Law and Order Restoration Council of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] issued Martial Law Order No. 6/90, dated 18 April 1990, the ninth day of the waning moon of Tagu, 1352 Myanmar [Burmese] Era. The order reads:

1. In order to ensure effectiveness in implementing security, law and order, and regional peace and tranquillity, the State Law and Order Restoration Council issued Martial Law Order No. 1/89 granting the commanders of the Central Military Command and of the former Northwest Military Command the right to exercise martial law administrative and judiciary powers in the military regions under their supervision and command.
2. Presently, as the law and order and regional peace and tranquillity situation has improved in the areas in the jurisdiction of the reorganized Northwest Military Command as well as the Central Military Command, Martial Law is hereby revoked in the following 10 townships effective the date of this order:

A. Northwest Military Command Region:

1. Indaw Township, Sagaing Division
2. Tigyaing Township, Sagaing Division
3. Kawlin Township, Sagaing Division
4. Wetlet Township, Sagaing Division
5. Myaung Township, Sagaing Division

B. Central Military Command Region:

1. Tada-u Township, Mandalay Division
2. Natogyi Township, Mandalay Division
3. Myede Township, Magway Division
4. Myothit Township, Magway Division
5. Natmauk Township, Magway Sagaing Division

By the authority vested in me

Signed: Khin Nyunt, major general

Secretary-1, State Law and Order Restoration Council

NLD Secretary U Chit Khaing Delivers Speech*BK1404094790 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1420 GMT 12 Apr 90*

[Speech by U Chit Khaing, acting secretary of the National League for Democracy; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Dear people: On behalf of the National League for Democracy [NLD] may I convey my best wishes to you. Dear people, as you know, our NLD formed and headed by Chairman U Tin U and General Secretary Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, has given political guidance and leadership to the entire people since the 1988 mass uprising and

demonstrations demanding the abolishment of the one-party system despised by the people, and the construction of a democratic system for the country's benefit in compliance with people's desires. Conditions have become favorable for the change from one-party system to a multiparty democratic system. The opening of means for the construction of a democratic system is a national achievement in itself. This achievement signifies that power and authority of the government will be returned to the hands of the people. In other words, only the people can promulgate power; power must flow from the people.

A democratic system is based on people's desires. The top person who has power cannot do as he pleases because he always has to coordinate and inquire about people's desires. The people can change, elect, or remove candidates every four or five years. In other words, you can elect a government with the candidates of your choice. In this manner, the people's three basic needs for food, clothing and shelter will be fulfilled; there will always be harmony between the people and government. The standard of living will improve, and the country will develop prosperously.

There are over 2 million members in the National League for Democracy. NLD's election symbol is a Khamauk—a farmer's hat. The people's greatest desire this day is for a change to democracy, and that will be the general elections to be held on 27 May. The NLD will be contesting in 451 of 492 constituencies. These days the people are concentrating on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The majority of the people will be wondering what her opinions are as leader of the NLD in the upcoming elections. In preparing to submit the candidacy of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi by our executive committee, the authorities asked for her brief personal history to be included. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in her own handwriting gave the following statement: "In respect of my League's decision made democratically, in honor of the zeal and courage of the pro-democracy masses, to help fulfill the righteous requirement of the citizens to the best of my ability, and to abide by the decision of the selection board, I hereby submit my candidacy to contest in the elections."

I [U Chit Khaing] will have to submit a statement on what the NLD's disposition will be and what it will do for the country if it wins the elections. With regards to these, they have already been explained in the NLD's objectives and its multiparty general election press releases. In brief, on the political system it is to work toward a genuine democratic system that conforms to the wishes of the majority and will guarantee the people's basic human rights. At the same time, it is to work toward the non-emergence of a rightist or a leftist one-party system. We are not contesting for the sole purpose of winning the elections but for the main aim of achieving the national desire for reconstruction and democratic change. In other words, it is to fulfill the national need in accordance with the wishes of the

people. The national desire is to reject the one-party system and to lay a foundation for the construction of democracy.

The prevailing political situation of our country today is favorable to the change through multiparty general elections. The upcoming election is not meant for a group, a single party, or a group of people to attain power or to form a government. It is an extraordinary event in our country's history and will go down in history as an election that marks the change and transfer to a new system and a new democratic era.

Dear people, I would like to request and urge you to realize the desire of the majority and use the power already in your hands fully, bravely, and willingly. I would also like you to partake seriously in the elections which will decide your fate, in other words the fate of your country, by marching to the polling booths and casting your ballot cards for the candidates of your choice. At the beginning, the NLD has said they are contesting in the elections only to fulfill and accomplish the people's desire. I would also like to present to you that we can only perform effectively if we receive clean and clear support from the people. I would next like to say that the NLD's participation in the elections is based on the national cause for the construction of democracy with basic human rights. I am very happy and pleased to hear from various strata that they will vote for the NLD since the people today have high hopes, reliance, and belief in us. I would like to thank the people in anticipation for their true kindness and goodness.

For the benefit of the country, various matters including the early change of power and construction of a democratic system can be conducted smoothly and quickly by political means only if the majority of the candidates are united in the beliefs of democracy. The emergence of a stable and strong democratic government is the main requirement of the state today, and the early transitional establishment of a democratic system that respects the honor of the people is urgently needed. That is why we must elect candidates for the emergence of a strong and stable democratic government. May the people be prosperous and healthy in both mind and body.

Further Reportage on PRC Delegation Activities

*BK1804080790 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 16 Apr 90*

[Summary] "A PRC delegation headed by Mr. Ma Qingxiong, vice minister for radio, film, and television, in the company of Lieutenant Colonel Tin Htoo of the Ministry of Information flew to Mandalay airport at 0730 on 15 April." The delegation was received at the airport by Colonel Aung Khin, deputy commander of the Central Military Command; Lieutenant Colonel Maung Baw, secretary of Mandalay Division Law and Order Restoration Council; and other local officials. The delegation, which stayed at the Mandalay Hotel, went on a sightseeing tour of scenic spots and places of interest in Mandalay and Sagaing.

"At 1900 that evening, Major General Tun Kyi held a banquet on the lawn of the guest house in the Mandalay palatial compound for Vice Minister Ma Qingxiong and delegation members." The Chinese guests were also entertained by a variety song and dance show. "This morning, the PRC guests joined in festivities held to mark the traditional Myanmar [Burmese] Thingyan water festival" and continued their sightseeing tour of places of interest. "At 1630, the PRC guests returned to Yangon [Rangoon] from Mandalay" after being seen off by local officials. "In the evening, Lieutenant General Phone Myint, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and minister of information and culture and home and religious affairs, held a dinner party for the guests at the Karaweik hall in Yangon." Military and civilian officials attended the banquet.

Communication Minister Returns From Indonesia

*BK1504142290 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 15 Apr 90*

[Excerpt] The Myanmar [Burmese] delegation headed by Lieutenant General Tin Tun, minister of transport and communications and labor and social welfare, which visited the Republic of Indonesia at the invitation of the Indonesian minister of communications returned to Yangon [Rangoon] by air this evening. [passage omitted]

Minister Returns From Narcotics Conference

*BK1504143290 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 15 Apr 90*

[Excerpt] The Myanmar [Burmese] delegation headed by Lieutenant General Phone Myint, minister of home and religious affairs and information and culture, which attended a ministerial-level global conference on minimizing the illegal distribution and usage of narcotic drugs and on combatting the threat of cocaine, which was held in London between 9 and 11 April, returned to Yangon [Rangoon] by air this evening. [passage omitted]

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Opposition Gets Mixed Support Before Elections

*BK1704084190 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES
in English 16 Apr 90 p 14*

[By Ismail Kassim]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur—As the general election draws close, the proposed opposition alliance led by former Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah received both good and bad news over the weekend. The good news is that his latest ally—the still unregistered All-Malaysian Indian Progressive Front (AMIPF)—appears to have some popular support among the small Indian minority.

Although they make up only about 9 per cent of the electorate, the Indians could tip the balance in many constituencies, especially in closely-contested battles between the Spirit of '46 led by Tengku Razaleigh and his former party, UMNO [United Malays National Organization], which heads the ruling National Front. If support from a section of the Indian community was good news for the opposition, the bad news was the uneasiness within sections of Parti Islam (PAS) [Pan Malaysian Islamic Party] over the close co-operation between the Spirit of '46 and the Democratic Action Party (DAP).

The opposition alliance had good reason to be happy when more than 10,000 Indians turned up for a rally in Kuala Lumpur organised by the AMIPF to launch its flag and symbol.

The rally was to have been held at the National Stadium but the venue was changed because the police refused to grant a permit. The meeting got under way only after the patron of AMIPF, former Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman, came to the rescue and hosted the rally in the huge compound of his Kuala Lumpur home.

AMIPF pro-tem president M.G. Pandithan, Tengku Razaleigh and DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang received loud applause for anti-Front statements they made, but this did not mean that all present were against the ruling coalition of Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed. The cheers were fuelled more by anger against Datuk S. Samy Vellu, the leader of the Malaysian Indian Congress, than against Dr Mahathir or the Front, of which the MIC [Malaysian Indian Congress] has been a key member for more than three decades.

Most of those at the rally were MIC members, who went there to express their support for Mr Pandithan. As the MIC branch chairman from Negri Sembilan, Mr P.K. Krishnan, said: "We are not against the Front. We are against Samy Vellu."

Because of the infighting in the MIC, he said many Indians would switch their support to the Spirit of '46, which has entered into separate alliances with the DAP, Parti Islam and a few other minor parties to take on the Front one to one in all constituencies in the next general election.

It is still not certain that the anti-Samy Vellu mood among sections of the MIC would automatically translate into votes for the opposition.

There is, of course, a groundswell of popular support for Mr Pandithan within the MIC and the Indian community. A former MIC vice-president who was sacked in July 1988, Mr Pandithan decided to throw his lot with Tengku Razaleigh only after he lost all hopes of rejoining the MIC.

The bad news for the opposition came when PAS treasurer Haji Mustapha Ali last week called for a review of

the relationship between his party and the Spirit of '46 because he felt that the co-operation between the latter and the DAP might result in a backlash against PAS. The DAP, which espoused the creation of a more equal society for all communities, incurred PAS' wrath for being dead set against any attempt to replace the present secular system with an Islamic state.

PAS leader Haji Fadzil Noor said that he was not aware of any review. A PAS source said that the next party central executive committee meeting would discuss the problems arising from the close co-operation between the Spirit of '46 and the DAP.

The question being asked in PAS circles was why Haji Mustapha was making common cause with a small group of former members in the Al Islah group in Kelantan which opposed the party's link with the Spirit of '46 and two other Islamic parties in the Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah [United Muslim Movement].

One interpretation is that it could be a sandiwara (shadow play) to keep its members in the East Coast satisfied that the party would not compromise its Islamic principles. Another is that Haji Mustapha, who lives in Trengganu and is said to be the strategist behind the charismatic PAS deputy president Haji Abdul Hadi Awang, was making noises to express his unhappiness at being left out. The third is that there is genuine apprehension among PAS members in the East Coast. If this is the case, it could lead to severe repercussions for the opposition front.

Cambodia

Hun Sen Interviewed on Elections, Khmer Rouge

PM1804104690 Paris LE FIGARO in French
14-15 Apr 90 p 4

[Interview with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen by Renaud Girard in Phnom Penh—date not given]

[Text] [Girard] The five permanent Security Council members meeting in Paris advocated an interim UN administration in Cambodia with the aim of organizing free elections. Do you agree with that solution?

[Hun Sen] I prefer the term interim UN authority to that of administration. This authority should have two essential tasks: To monitor the implementation of international agreements on Cambodia, and to organize and monitor the elections.

[Girard] What do you think of the proposal made by the Paris meeting that a Supreme National Council grouping all the Cambodian factions should delegate the necessary powers to a provisional UN authority in Cambodia?

[Hun Sen] We think this body can symbolize Cambodia's sovereignty, especially by representing the country in New York. Regarding delegating power to the United Nations, I think it would be better for the two existing

governments—the government of the Cambodian state (which Mr. Hun Sen leads) and the government of Democratic Kampuchea (headed by Prince Sihanouk)—to do that.

[Girard] If, as you said a few months ago, you prefer this two-government solution, is it because you want to avoid sitting on the Supreme National Council with the Khmer Rouge?

[Hun Sen] We do not think the Polpotists have any legitimacy, but we acknowledge the existence of Prince Sihanouk's government with ours. The creation of the national council must be based on the principle of equal participation by prominent figures from the two governments. Whether there is one or several parties on our side is our business. If Prince Sihanouk, as president of Kampuchea, appoints the Khmer Rouge to participate in this National Council, that is his business.

[Girard] What concessions do you expect from Sihanouk?

[Hun Sen] He must avoid raising the problems that caused deadlock at the Paris conference—power sharing during the transitional period.

The United Nations Incapable of Controlling the Khmer Rouge

[Girard] The opposing side thinks it is you who are the obstacle because you refuse to dismantle your own government in favor of the United Nations....

[Hun Sen] We maintain our refusal to dismantle the existing administration and government. There are three reasons:

1. Cambodia's national sovereignty is at stake.
2. We must maintain law and order and a normal social and economic life. Dismantling the existing administration means immediately plunging the country into chaos.
3. The Pol Potists could well try to seize power once our administration has been dismantled. I do not think the international forces are capable of controlling the Khmer Rouge. Our principle is to ask the United Nations to hold general elections on national territory. We simply propose maintaining the political and military status quo until the elections are over. Thus, if we currently control 94 percent of territory and the other side controls six percent, this state of affairs will be maintained and the United Nations will come and organize elections. After the elections, a new government will be formed. The two existing administrations will then automatically be dismantled.

[Girard] At the beginning of the year the military situation was relatively a source of worry for you, notably with the loss of Pailin and the Khmer Rouge push toward Angkor and Battambang. What is the present situation?

[Hun Sen] I can say the most difficult stage following the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops is over. The enemy has taken advantage of the two factors very favorable to

them: time and place. With regard to the time, they attacked immediately after the withdrawal before we were able to replace the Vietnamese troops. They attacked at the height of the rainy season; it was very difficult for us to move our forces. With regard to the place, they attacked along the Thai border, which was easy terrain for them with logistical support and their headquarters close by. In Pailin, the enemy only had to cover 10 km to supply their troops, whereas we had to cover 80 km. Despite those advantages, they did not gain much. We are now moving into the offensive.

[Girard] It is customarily said there are still almost 10,000 Vietnamese soldiers in Cambodia....

[Hun Sen] Even if we still needed Vietnamese forces in our country, it would take just 5,000 men, not 10,000, to drive out the Khmer Rouge from national territory. This is propaganda: The opposition radio recently said there were 40,000 Vietnamese soldiers. The other side is using this as a pretext to secure more foreign military aid. For Prince Sihanouk, this is the best way of justifying his alliance with the Khmer Rouge.

[Girard] Why do you think Prince Sihanouk is at present rejecting this solution of general elections organized by the United Nations with the two existing governments?

[Hun Sen] Prince Sihanouk's problem is power. Prince Sihanouk needs the Khmer Rouge to counterbalance the Phnom Penh government. He recently said he was convinced the Khmer Rouge would secure 40 of the 100 seats in the National Assembly. If the Khmer Rouge were as popular as he says, why does the prince fear the elections so much?

[Girard] Are you not afraid the current improvement in Sino-Vietnamese relations might be damaging to you?

[Hun Sen] I think an improvement in Sino-Vietnamese relations will have favorable repercussions for us. If China deems it useful to normalize its relations with Vietnam, why would it not do so with us? A new confidence between China and Vietnam would create the best conditions for achieving a neutral and peaceful Cambodia.

[Girard] What role do you think France, your former colonial power, should play?

[Hun Sen] A particularly active role. President Mitterrand's recent statement that "no compromise is possible with the Khmer Rouge" gives us great hope.

Nguon Nhel Addresses Victory Day Meeting

*BK1804085590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 1300 GMT 17 Apr 90*

[Summary] A mass meeting was held on the morning of 17 April at the Basak auditorium to mark to the 15th anniversary of the victory over the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys. Among the party and state leaders

attending the gathering were Heng Samrin, general secretary of the party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State of the State of Cambodia; Mat Ly, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the National Assembly, and chairman of the Kampuchean Federation of Trade Unions; Nguon Nhel, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the Phnom Penh City Party Committee; General Tie Banh, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of national defense; Gen. Sin Song, alternate member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of the interior; Ros Chhun, member of the party Central Committee and secretary general of the front National Council; Sam Sundoeun, member of the party Central Committee and first secretary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Youth Union; and Chhuk Chhim, vice chairwoman of the Kampuchean Women's Association.

Honorary guests at the ceremony were members of the party Central Committee; ministers and their deputies; directors general and their deputies; leaders of various central institutions; cadres, staff, and workers from the central services and Phnom Penh City; representatives of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces; Buddhist monks; representatives of ethnic minority groups; and many Phnom Penh City residents. Ambassadors, charges d'affaires, advisers, and representatives from friendly embassies to Cambodia, representatives of international organizations on mission in Cambodia, as well as former Cambodian personalities and Cambodian residents living abroad were also invited to the meeting.

After observing the national anthem, Nguon Nhel gave a speech recalling the background of the struggle by the Cambodian people to overthrow the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys, recounting the crimes of genocide committed by the Pol Pot clique against the people, and describing the rebirth and all-around developments of the Cambodian state over the past 11 years. He extolled the Cambodian People's Armed Forces for their great exploits in defeating the enemy, their both quantitative and qualitative speedy development, and their mastery in defending the national social gains and protecting the people's life and happiness. He condemned the Cambodian opposition groups for continuing perfidious, malicious maneuvers to decimate the State of Cambodia saying:

"What is regrettable is that the other side has neither shown willingness nor made concessions. It has instead continued to deny and foil our diplomatic endeavor. To date, the enemy forces have neither changed their attitude nor made any concession to a political settlement of the Cambodian problem. They have maintained their strategic gambits to continue to inflame war to wreak havoc upon the people. It is true our people hate the war, but we are forced by the tripartite coalition backed by some international circles to fight against it to prevent absolutely the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

This is so our people can be the real owner of the country and fully enjoy true happiness. That being the case, the Cambodian people have earnestly requested that every international forum that really wants the Cambodia people to recover peace prevent the return of the genocidal regime and resolve the Cambodian conflict on the basis of respecting the Cambodian people's interest and rights to self-determination as well as Cambodia's sovereignty."

He continued his speech by exposing the stratagems conducted by the three reactionary groups and elements of some countries to restore the genocidal Pol Pot regime in Cambodia. He asserted that the Cambodian people were resolved to do whatever they could to avoid once and for all the recurrence of the genocidal regime and to proceed with determination to rebuild and develop the wonderful land of Angkor toward prosperity. In conclusion, Nguon Nhel thanked Vietnam, Laos, and the Soviet Union, as well as other brotherly, friendly countries and progressive international organizations for their steadfast support to the correct and just cause of struggle of the Cambodian people. He urged all the cadres, party members, combatants, and people to uphold their high spirit of responsibility for the destiny and future of the motherland. He also urged them to intensify their efforts to implement their tasks to achieve the objectives set by the Second National Conference of Cadres and the ninth and 10th sessions of the party Central Committee and to successfully carry out every decision of the party Central Committee. The meeting concluded with pride and a high sense of responsibility in an atmosphere of cordiality, solidarity, and friendship.

Traditional New Year Greetings Messages Continue

Tie Banh Greets Combatants

*BK1504112090 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 1200 GMT 14 Apr 90*

[New Year greetings message from Defense Minister Tie Banh to cadres and combatants of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] Beloved cadres, male and female combatants, militiamen: On the occasion of the Cambodian traditional New Year, on behalf of the Defense Ministry, and in my own name, I am very pleased to convey best wishes to everyone on the mission throughout the country to defend the motherland; to combatants who are receiving training in friendly countries; to wounded and disabled combatants; to families of disabled and fallen combatants; and to families of combatants who last year successfully implemented their sacred duties in the interest of the nation and motherland and who, at present, are continuing their active contributions to the national defense. I would also like to extend warmest greetings to all the sick, wounded, and disabled cadres and combatants in various hospitals. May all of you quickly recover

and become physically strong so you can return to your units to restart your triumphant tasks.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to sincerely thank the local state authorities and mass organizations as well as the people throughout the country for cooperating with and helping to promote the Armed Forces in their battles to successfully crush the enemy and to defend, rebuild, and consolidate the localities in all fields. I am delighted to heartily extol all the heroic armed units, cadres, combatants, and militia forces for their continuous great exploits achieved since the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer troops from Cambodia at the end of September 1989. In particular, the successes scored in this dry season have more clearly shown the fighting capability to defend the motherland and national social gains of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces, which are becoming stronger than ever before. The Armed Forces are certainly capable of assuming the tasks of securing tranquillity and happiness for the people.

Beloved comrades and friends: With profound national pride we are celebrating our traditional New Year at a time when the revolutionary situation in Cambodia is in full swing in all fields. Our forces are able to assume increasingly for themselves every task. The Armed Forces and our people throughout the country have the growing confidence that they are capable of preventing the recurrence of the genocidal Pol Pot regime. All of us have more clearly seen through the poisonous maneuvers conducted by the enemy. As such, we are resolved to uphold the solidarity and unity under the leadership of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party to promote concerted efforts to deter and decimate on a timely basis every last-ditch maneuver and adventurous activity of the enemy, inflicting continuous setbacks on their ambition of winning strategic military advantage on the battlefield since the day Vietnam withdrew all its troops from Cambodia.

Despite their consecutive heavy defeats, the three reactionary Cambodian opposition groups have stubbornly continued their constant destructive activities against the rebirth of our people. In fact, it is irrefutably obvious that the three traitorous Cambodian groups, as in the past, continue to wreak havoc upon the Cambodian people. This is concretely confirmed by the tens of thousands of our people who have escaped from the regions temporarily occupied by the enemy, regions which we have raided and dismantled. Our people and Armed Forces are earnestly longing for a peaceful life, but we cannot stay inactive and await peace since the enemy is trying with all possible stratagems to eliminate us to restore the genocidal regime in Cambodia. Therefore, our Armed Forces and people should uphold their vigilance by constantly fighting the enemy. We should always intensify our hatred for the enemies' cruel activities against our people and be determined to launch offensives to prevail over the enemy once and for all.

The Armed Forces from all units should step up efforts to improve themselves in all fields in order to continue their valiant and brave struggle, because the decisive factor of our ultimate victory rests on our imposing our might on the military battlefield. This would also insure the rebirth of our nation and the happiness of our people. New year, new duty, new strength, and new victory are the eternal hope of our people's Armed Forces which bear the responsibility for the destiny and future of our beloved motherland. I would like to wish all of you the best of health, energetic physical strength, and new and still greater successes in the implementation of your tasks.

Vietnam Sends Greetings

BK1804054790 Phnom Penh SPK in French
0400 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, 18 Apr (SPK)—Chea Sim, Political Bureau member of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and chairman of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense National Council, received a greetings message from Nguyen Huu Tho, chairman of the Vietnam Fatherland Front (VFF) Central Committee Presidium, on the occasion of the traditional New Year festival Chol Chhnam Thmei.

The Vietnamese leader wished a steady development in the relations of friendship and all-around cooperation between Vietnam and Cambodia.

The Cambodia-Vietnam Friendship Association also received greetings from its Vietnamese counterpart on the same occasion.

Tie Banh Condolences on SRV Naval Chief's Death

BK1604052790 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 0430 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Upon receiving the sad news of the death of Admiral Giap Van Cuong, commander-in-chief of the VPA's [Vietnam People's Army's] Naval Force, Comrade General Tie Banh, defense minister of the State of Cambodia, has sent a condolence message to four-star General Le Duc Anh, defense minister of the SRV. The message noted: The Defense Ministry of the State of Cambodia and I would like to join in mourning with the SRV Defense Ministry and the bereaved family. We regard this loss as our own.

AFP Reports Japanese Diplomat Meets Sihanouk

BK1804062990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0536 GMT
18 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Bangkok, April 18 (AFP)—A senior Japanese diplomat met Tuesday [17 April] with Cambodian guerrilla leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk to discuss efforts to end the war in Cambodia and a proposal that Japan host talks between the warring Cambodian factions, diplomats said here Wednesday. Tadashi Ikeda travelled

to the guerrilla-controlled northern Cambodian village of Sereipheap, near the border with Thailand, for the meeting with the prince, they said. Prince Sihanouk, Cambodia's former monarch, heads one of two non-communist factions allied in a guerrilla coalition with the Marxist Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge, the alliance's military muscle, against the Vietnam-installed government in Phnom Penh.

The Japanese Embassy here had no comment on the meeting between the prince and Mr. Ikeda, who holds the rank of minister in Japan's foreign service, and is the head of the Japanese diplomatic mission attached to the anti-Phnom Penh coalition. But diplomats said that a proposal that Japan host a meeting between the warring Cambodian factions in a bid to break the current deadlock in peace efforts had been raised during the meeting. They gave no further details. The proposal was made earlier this month by Thai Prime Minister Chatchai during an official visit to Tokyo for talks with his Japanese counterpart Toshiki Kaifu. Japan is the only major non-communist country to formally recognize the guerrilla alliance, which also holds Cambodia's seat at the United Nations.

Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila was meanwhile quoted Wednesday by the state-run THAI NEWS AGENCY (TNA) as saying that Japan had decided to contact the leaders of the Cambodian factions to sound them out on Bangkok's proposal. Mr. Sitthi said Mr. Kaifu had shown "genuine interest" in helping resolve the Cambodian problem. Mr. Ikeda had also exchanged views with prince Sihanouk over the former monarch's latest peace plan for Cambodia, the diplomats said. [passage omitted]

Resistance Reportedly Losing UK, EC Support

*BK1704024390 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
17 Apr 90 pp 1, 3*

[Text] The British Foreign Office yesterday reaffirmed to the Foreign Ministry that the United Kingdom and the European Community cannot continue to support the Cambodian resistance seat at the next United Nations General Assembly. In a communication to the Foreign Ministry yesterday, British Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs R. McLaren said that in view of domestic pressure and the "untenability" of the United Kingdom-European Community position to continue support for the resistance seat, Britain and the EC "cannot appear to be already getting the Vietnamese out of Cambodia and bringing in" the Khmer Rouge. Foreign Ministry sources said that the ministry has been aware of the UK-EC position "for a considerable period."

Informed sources told the BANGKOK POST last night that this was the UK-EC position during the ASEAN-EC ministerial meeting in Kuching, Malaysia in February. Foreign Ministry officials contacted by the POST last night refused to say whether the statement meant the United Kingdom and the European Community planned to unilaterally withdraw support and recognition of the

resistance at the United Nations General Assembly meeting in October this year. A diplomatic analyst said last night that the United Kingdom and the European Community had "never said anything as clearly as that" in their statement.

One ministry source said that there had been growing abhorrence not only in the UK but in many EC countries against the Khmer Rouge which have been likened to Adolf Hitler and the Nazis. The ministry source noted that a vote on the resistance seat had not been taken for the past five years because Vietnam had not contested it. Vietnam may decide to test its strength, namely the growing sentiment against the Khmer Rouge, by contesting the Cambodia seat this year, the ministry source said. Under such circumstances, the United Kingdom and the EC may not vote in support, the source said. The source added, however, that this does not mean the United Kingdom and the EC would support and recognise the Phnom Penh regime. The diplomatic analyst added that vacating a seat (held by the resistance) at the United Nations and installing the Phnom Penh regime is not easy, adding that it took China 10 years to be seated at the United Nations. The ministry sources said that if the resistance seat is contested this year and the EC withdraws support, the resistance is likely to retain its seat because of support from many of the developing countries.

In November last year following the September withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia, the UK came under considerable domestic pressure—including pressure by the opposition Labour Party and a group of aid agencies—to change its stance on Cambodia. The pressure prompted the UK, among 74 other nations, to back changes in last year's United Nations resolution on Cambodia recognising the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia. The United Kingdom added in yesterday's communication that it views the setting up of the Supreme National Council as "of utmost urgency and importance." Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Phnom Penh premier Hun Sen agreed to the formation of the Supreme National Council during their meeting in Bangkok. The prince wants all four warring factions represented in the body, while Hun Sen wants representatives from his government and the resistance.

The communication added that time is "unlikely to be on the side" of China and the resistance despite the desire by the Soviet Union to end the Cambodian conflict as soon as possible. It added that the United Kingdom is satisfied with the recent United Nations Security Council talks on the Cambodian issue. "There has been progress especially on the United Nations role (in a resolution of the conflict)," the communication said. The communication added that the United Kingdom is "enthusiastic" if a series of bilateral and triangular meetings between Thailand, Vietnam, China and the four warring factions takes place under Thai auspices. McLaren said such meetings could bring about an agreement on the Supreme National Council which

could be combined with "further progress" during talks of the UN Security Council and the report on the results of the UN and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees survey teams to Cambodia. The United Kingdom said it felt that China, at the recent UN Security Council meeting, was cautious and reluctant to go along with whatever progress was reached.

VONADK on Tank Destroyed in Ampil District

BK1804021890 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 17 Apr 90

[From the "Daily Report From Various Battlefields" feature]

[Excerpt] On 11 April a Vietnamese-puppet tank, rushing from Samraong village to reinforce enemy troops in Kouk Mon, Ampil District, north Sisophon battlefield, exploded while rumbling over our land mines in an area west of the village. Later, three trucks transporting Vietnamese puppet soldiers moving from Samraong in an attempt to rescue their comrades were ambushed at Prek Kanhchreak. We set fire to one truck and killed 10 and wounded 15 enemy soldiers. [passage omitted]

Indonesia

Further Reportage on IGGI Chairman's Visit

Dailies Preview Visit

BK1604135190

[Editorial Report] Two Indonesian-language newspapers, KOMPAS and SUARA PEMBARUAN, carry editorials on 5 April commenting on the 6-14 April visit to Indonesia by Jan Pronk, Netherlands minister for cooperation and development and chairman of the Intergovernmental Group on Indonesia (IGGI).

The 600-word KOMPAS editorial on page 4 entitled: "We Should Give a Normal Welcome to the Working Visit of the IGGI Chairman," begins by saying that the visit is a routine one and is held annually before the meeting of IGGI, a group of countries which extend loans to Indonesia. However, this year's visit is unique due to the outspoken personality of Jan Pronk, who earlier visited Indonesia in 1973 and 1976, and the Netherlands Government's criticism of the Indonesia's decision to execute former palace guards involved in the 1965 abortive communist coup attempt.

Continuing, KOMPAS says that "the Indonesian economy has made great progress compared with the economy in 1973 and 1976. Our economic performance has been recognized by other countries, including those grouped in the IGGI. Our per-capita income has increased four to five times since then. Our economic infrastructure has expanded and is capable of supporting economic growth at a higher level."

The daily concludes by saying that "against the current economic background, what problems will arise in connection with Minister Pronk's visit? We believe that there will not be any problems for us to worry about."

Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN's 700-word editorial on page 6 entitled: "Pronk Should Be Objective," states that even though Pronk's visit is a routine one, it raises the question: "Will the Indonesian Government be able to secure the targetted amount of loans in view of the fact that it was Pronk who had withheld part of the financial assistance in response to the execution of the former palace guards in February?"

Continuing, SUARA PEMBARUAN says that it is the Netherlands Government's prerogative to extend or not to extend financial assistance to Indonesia, but "the withholding or scrapping of financial assistance as a reaction to Indonesia's domestic affairs, especially the execution issue, is something that cannot be justified. The execution was a matter of upholding the law in Indonesia and is not a violation of human rights."

Concluding, the editorial says: "The decision to grant financial assistance to Indonesia should not be based on the issue of human rights, which is subjective in nature, but on the objective criteria of how the assistance funds are spent. If the funds were withheld or scrapped because they were misused, we would certainly accept the decision."

Pronk, Suharto Discuss Aid Package

BK1404091490 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0750 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Jakarta, Apr 14 (OANA/ANTARA)—Netherlands Development Cooperation Minister/Chairman of the Inter-Governmental Group on Indonesia (IGGI) J.P. Pronk estimated that the aid the consortium would make available to Indonesia for fiscal 1990/91 would be about the same amount as the [as received] that provided for fiscal 1989/90. Pronk made the statement after paying a courtesy call on President Suharto at Bina Graha [Presidential Office] Saturday [14 April].

The Dutch minister arrived here on April 6, and is scheduled to leave Indonesia later this afternoon. However, Pronk added, the amount and composition of the aid would still have to be discussed by Indonesian representatives and the IGGI.

In 1989, Indonesia received 4.2 billion US dollars in aid, in addition to a special aid of 1.5 billion US dollars.

Meanwhile, Coordinating Minister for Economic, Financial and Industrial Affairs and Development Supervision Radius Prawiro, told the press here Saturday that following negotiations with Pronk, the consortium may not fulfil the Indonesian request for the special aid of 1.5 billion dollars.

Pronk himself has told the press that the smaller special aid the IGGI would provide to Indonesia was a favourable indication for the nation, as it reflects the country's improved economy.

Indonesia and the members of the IGGI are scheduled to meet in The Hague in June this year to determine the amount and composition of the aid for the next fiscal year.

Queried about the possibilities of an Indonesian request from the other members of the group that the IGGI Secretariat should be moved from the Hague to the United States, for example, to join with the World Bank premises in Washington, D.C., Minister Pronk said that there has been no such a request. "I think the Government of Indonesia is satisfied with the execution of the current tasks of the IGGI chairman," he added.

Concerning the difference in figures of the debt service ratio (DSR) between the IGGI and the Indonesian Government, Pronk said, "If you only count the DSR based on the short-, medium- and long-term debt from the government's point of view, they will be lower." Pronk said that according to the IGGI, the Indonesian DSR reached 40 per cent, while the Indonesian Government said that the country's DSR is only 28 per cent.

He also said that he informed President Suharto of his talks about various matters, including the recent execution of four communist political detainees, with several Indonesian Cabinet ministers. "I have informed President Suharto of all my discussions with my Indonesian colleagues," Pronk said.

Japan Says Aid Not Linked to Domestic Affairs

*BK1704035290 Jakarta ANTARA in English
0256 GMT 17 Apr 90*

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 (OANA/ANTARA)—Japan has no intention to link its economic aid commitment with Indonesia's domestic affairs at the June IGGI [Intergovernmental Group on Indonesia] meeting this year, nor does it see any logical reason for switching its aid share from Southeast Asia, including Indonesia, to Eastern Europe.

Japanese Foreign Office sources here told ANTARA Monday [16 April] that the Japanese Government's aid policy depends entirely on the quality of the projects or programs forwarded by the recipient countries.

The problem of linking economic aid with matters considered as a domestic affairs, such as basic human rights and the management of tropical forests, has become an interesting issue prior to and during last week's visit to Indonesia of IGGI Chairman J.P. Pronk.

The Japanese Government's guarantee was later seen as very important to Indonesia considering that Japan is a major donor among the other members of the aid consortium.

The current fiscal year's IGGI commitments were noted at 4.3 billion U.S. dollars, which include 1.8 billion dollars from Japan, and 950 million dollars in special aid Indonesia badly needed for its local cost funding.

According to a Japanese Foreign Ministry official responsible for aid affairs who wished to stay anonymous, the other IGGI member countries may always link their aid commitments to Indonesia's domestic affairs, but it must be noted that each country has its own policy in providing aid. A political issue, such as that regarding basic human rights, is an arguable matter, which makes it very difficult to use it as a guidance, the official pointed out.

He further emphasized that Japan would not postpone any economic aid to another country, Indonesia in particular, if it is already a commitment.

He added that the Japanese aid through the IGGI would be a very important topic in the talks between Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and President Suharto early next month.

He was unable to go into further detail on the Japanese aid for fiscal 1990/1991 as the matter was still being discussed in Tokyo.

However, when asked if there was any possibility of a reduction in the special aid for Indonesia, he said the possibility is always there, as the special aid is actually supposed to constantly decrease in accordance with the favourable economic developments in Indonesia.

Another official responsible for ASEAN affairs, except Thailand, even said that during Kaifu's visit in Jakarta the aid talks may not be completed.

He was also unable to give an exact date for Kaifu's visit to Jakarta within the framework of his ASEAN tour, as there has been no decision from the Japanese parliament.

However, other sources said the visit may be realized from May 3 through 5.

Kaifu is slated to visit Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Businessmen Meet Soviet Business Delegation

*BK1804101590 Jakarta ANTARA in English
0936 GMT 18 Apr 90*

[Text] Jakarta, Apr 18 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesian trade with the Soviet Union has good prospects, especially in the long term, though at the initial stage there could be structural difficulties, an Indonesian business leader said.

At the current initial stage both sides would have to make new adjustments, Sotion Arjanggi, chairman of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

(KADIN), said at the end of a meeting between KADIN and a visiting Soviet business delegation Wednesday [18 April].

The delegation, representing the Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry, was led by Vadim I. Efremov.

Sotion Arjanggi said Indonesia was already set to make the needed adjustments after President Suharto's tete-a-tete with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow last year.

According to Sotion Arjanggi in the meeting with KADIN, Efremov said joint ventures between the Soviets and its foreign partners have particularly good prospects in the far eastern region of the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Government plans to build special industrial zones with special, including tax, facilities in the region, the Soviet business leader said.

In the January-October period of 1989, Indonesia earned a surplus of 34.34 million U.S. dollars in its balance of trade with the Soviet Union, with export recorded at 81.45 million U.S. dollars and import 43.89 million U.S. dollars. [figures as received]

Laos

Well-Wishing Ceremony Held To Honor Leaders

*BK1704122590 Vientiane KPL in English 0943 GMT
17 Apr 90*

[Text] Vientiane, April 17 (KPL)—On the occasion of the Lao New Year [Buddhist Era] 2533 (the Year of the Horse), the Lao party and state leaders granted an audience to representatives of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee [LPRP CC], the People's Supreme Assembly, ministries, and services of the administration of Vientiane prefecture.

A "Basi" (a well-wishing) ceremony was held in the honour of Mr Kayson Phommavanh, LPRP CC general secretary and chairman of the Council of Ministers, Mr Nouthak Phoumsavan, LPRP CC's Politburo member and president of the People's Supreme Assembly, Mr Phoumi Vongvichit, LPRP CC's Politburo member, acting president of the republic and president of the Lao Front for National Construction, and others. The leaders hailed the achievements scored by Lao people in the previous years. At the same time, they urged for a stronger revolutionary will to attain greater achievements in the national defence and construction in contribution to the execution of the second five-year development plan.

Representatives of diplomatic corps in Laos and of foreign experts also called on the Lao leaders to present the latter new year wish on this occasion.

Nationwide Seminar on 'Essential Drugs' Ends

*BK1704113190 Vientiane KPL in English 0926 GMT
17 Apr 90*

[Text] Vientiane, April 17 (KPL)—The second nationwide seminar on essential drugs participated by 56 officials throughout the country wound up here on April 12 after four days of sitting.

The seminar would improve the operation of the essential drugs programme aimed at introducing correct application of pharmaceutical products.

The seminar also made a remark on the pharmaceutical production in Laos, set objectives for the supply and improvement of pharmaceutical products in accordance with the reality of the country.

The seminar was held under the auspices of the World Health Organisation and the ministry of public health, especially the pharmaceutical factories N. 2 and N. 3, and the pharmaceutical and medical equipment company.

Supreme Assembly Delegation Leaves for Sweden

*BK1704112290 Vientiane KPL in English 0913 GMT
17 Apr 90*

[Text] Vientiane, April 17 (KPL)—A delegation of the People's Supreme Assembly [PSA] headed by Mr. Somphavan Inthavong, member of the Standing Committee and chairman of the Economic, Planning, and Financial Commission of the PSA left here this morning for Sweden on a working visit there during April 18-28, 1990.

The visit is designed for strengthening of friendship and the exchange of experiences between the legislative institutes of the two countries. The Lao delegation will meet with Swedish senior authorities and central and local legislators to discuss the process of drafting laws and constitution of Sweden.

Chinese Friendship Group Arrives, Holds Talks

*BK1704121090 Vientiane KPL in English 0921 GMT
17 Apr 90*

["Sino-Lao Relations"—KPL headline]

[Text] Vientiane, April 17 (KPL)—President of the Lao Committee for Peace, Solidarity and Friendship with Other Nations Singkapo Sikhotchounnamali received here on April 16 a delegation of the Chinese Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries led by its vice-president Mrs. Wang Xiaxian.

The Lao president hailed the current visit to Laos by the Chinese delegation.

A talk was held later between delegations of the two countries. The Lao delegation was headed by its vice-president Souvannalat Sai-gnavong. The two sides,

among others, exchanged views on the future cooperation aiming at widening the time-honoured friendship between the two countries.

The Chinese delegation arrived here on April 15 for a 5 day visit to Laos.

Phoun Sipaseut Receives British, Iraqi Envoys

*BK1704111190 Vientiane KPL in English 0911 GMT
17 Apr 90*

[Text] Vientiane, April 17 (KPL)—Mr. Phoun Sipaseut, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister for foreign affairs, received here on April 16 Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] Mr. Michael Ramsay Melhuish, who has his residence in Bangkok, Thailand. Recently, he presented his credentials to the Lao acting president Mr. Phoumi Vongvichit.

On the same day, Mr. Phoun Sipaseut received Mr. Məhdi Talib Ibrahim, charge d'affaires of Iraq to the Lao PDR, whose chancellery is in Hanoi, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Philippines

Government Appears 'Softening' on Bases Position

*HK1704123590 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 16 Apr 90 pp 1, 3*

[By staff member Chay Florentino]

[Text] The Philippines appears softening toward the United States as their talks draw near over the fate of the American bases here.

It started out strong, with Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus publicly raising hopes of getting the Americans to pay billions of dollars for keeping their bases, if they are allowed that at all, after 1991, when the current treaty expires.

But soon enough, the initiative was lost. In negotiating in 1988 for the terms applying to the last two years of the current agreement on the bases, the Philippines had to settle for \$962 million, and now the American congress has further cut \$96 million off it.

For some time, the Philippines remained steadfast in not allowing any such breach of promise, a position dramatized by President Aquino's refusal to see U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney when he came here in February.

The Americans, however, were not impressed. As if to justify the cut, they countered with accusations that the Philippine government itself was guilty of unfulfilled promise by failing to provide security to the U.S. bases from intrusions, mainly from squatters around them, and from actual attacks on base personnel.

They have since sustained the offensive. They have offered, for instance, to make up for the cut with \$6 million in additional food aid and with other non-cash alternatives, and got a not unfavorable response from the Philippine government, which shows every indication that it will consider the offer.

The U.S. is also proceeding from the impression that the talks that will begin next month will not be simply exploratory, meaning, intended just to see if enough common ground can be found to justify negotiations for a new treaty, but the negotiations proper themselves. That's why Ambassador Platt has had to be replaced with Richard Armitage, a former assistant defense secretary known as a staunch advocate of the bases and a hardnosed negotiator, to lead the American side at the talks.

To all that, the Philippine reaction has been rather feeble. In fact, minor officials have been left to deal with it, and all they can say is that the U.S. has got the wrong impression. Secretary Manglapus, the original hardliner, and the President have been themselves silent.

One probable reason for the softening Philippine position is expediency. An official at the Department of Foreign Affairs says the Philippines can use the food aid that the U.S. is offering because its own food production has been greatly reduced by drought. Whereas normally, for instance, the Philippines does not accept corn as food aid because it will compete with the local production it now can fill a shortage.

Another reason is time. The Philippines, strapped for cash as it is, might want a new base agreement by October this year so that it can fit in the U.S. congress schedule of dealing with appropriations.

Indeed, a new pragmatism seems to influence the way the Philippines now look at the issue. For instance, talk of getting the bases out and ending security arrangements with the U.S. has died down. Even the group assigned to study alternative uses of the area that the bases occupy when they finally leave seems to adopt the same pragmatic line.

According to Dr. Jose Abueva, head of the committee doing this study, even preparations for the closing of the bases require the support of the Americans. He says that sobriety, not emotionalism, is needed to ensure a smooth transition. If they are not antagonized, the Americans, for instance, may be persuaded to leave behind removable facilities like dry docks, he says.

May Bases Talks Replace 'Open Options' Policy

*HK1804055390 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 18 Apr 90 pp 1, 7*

[By staffmember Chay Florentino, with additional report from Marites Paez]

[Text] Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus yesterday said the Philippines has abandoned its "open options" position in favor of exploratory talks to determine the fate of American military bases here after 1991.

"Our open options have been replaced with the exploratory talks which we have decided upon," Manglapus said. "We are entering into exploratory talks which could be preliminary to formal negotiations."

With this statement, the foreign office ended its silence on earlier claims by American officials that the talks scheduled on May 14 would be the actual negotiations for a new bases treaty between the Philippines and the U.S.

Meantime, U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Platt said it would be "premature" and "unwise" to dismantle the American bases here just because democracy has been sweeping across Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union has reduced its military forces in the Asia-Pacific region. "A period of great change...carries along its own instabilities... We think it's premature to just dismantle the entire structure that brought about and protected world peace. We think it would be unwise to dismantle all of that right away," Platt told Manila businessmen in a speech.

Following Manglapus' announcement, Platt also assumed a different stance from the earlier American position he and Richard Solomon, U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific affairs, had enunciated. After meeting with Manglapus during his recent visit here, Solomon said he had the impression that the talks would "slide" into actual negotiations.

Shortly after his return from Washington, Platt also said the U.S. felt it necessary to delay the talks previously set for April because they were made to understand that substantive issues would be covered in the negotiations. But yesterday, Platt said: "We are looking at these exploratory talks the same way you are. Our options are open, your options are open. We're going into them (talks) to explore the possibility of further talks."

When confronted with Solomon's statement about the certainty of the talks leading to actual negotiations, Platt answered, "That is, of course, our hope but we're not taking issue with your interpretation or your description of what these talks are to be like."

At the same time, Manglapus said U.S. compliance with its commitments made under the Manglapus-Shultz agreement would "weigh heavily" on the Aquino Government's decision to go into full negotiations.

The Philippines, he said, is preparing its point-by-point reply to the U.S. embassy's note verbale regarding compliance with the bases agreement. Manglapus said the \$96 million shortfall in economic and military assistance could even increase as a result of computations being made by the Philippine side. The ongoing exchange of notes would "hopefully" narrow down the differences

between the two countries regarding implementation of the 1988 agreement, according to Manglapus.

The Philippines said there was a \$96-million shortfall but the U.S. accused the Aquino Government of failing to implement a security plan for the bases.

'Note Verbale' on Agenda of Bases Talks Promised

HK1704145990 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 17 Apr 90

[From "GMA News" program—italicized portion in English]

[Text] The Philippines will present the U.S. Embassy with a note verbale spelling out the important issues to be raised at the bases exploratory talks. In a news conference, Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus stated that the issues will include the conditions to be agreed upon by both the Philippines and the United States if the bases are to stay in the country.

At the same time, Manglapus said there was nothing wrong in Washington's appointment of Richard Armitage as U.S. negotiator. However, Manglapus refused to comment on the government's position on the bases issue.

[Begin Manglapus recording in progress] ...*might initiate. That is ongoing. I told him that we can only make a decision whether or not to enter negotiations for a new treaty after the exploratory talks are over.* [end recording]

Editorial on Manglapus' Denial of U.S. Assertion

HK1804081190 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 18 Apr 90 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "A Message the U.S. Should Listen To"]

[Text] The government has finally sent a strong reply to American insinuations about the nature of the forthcoming bases talks.

No less than President Aquino herself has made it clear that the discussions scheduled to start on May 14 are merely exploratory.

The U.S. has been trying to make it appear that the talks, if not treaty, will directly lead to such negotiations. This was the position taken by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon when he visited Manila last week.

He claimed that after meeting with Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, he got the impression that the exploratory talks would simply "slide" into actual (treaty) negotiations.

Solomon also said he sensed a "constructive atmosphere conducive to the conclusion of a new treaty...so we look forward to constructive negotiations and in that regard, we have reached agreement that the discussion will begin on May 14."

If his claims were true, it would have meant a volte-face on the part of the Philippines, which has said since last year that the May sessions would do nothing more than sound out the two governments' positions on the bases' future. And if what Solomon said was correct, he had gotten the impression of the shift from no less than the head of the Philippine panel, Manglapus.

The Government seemed to reinforce the American assertion by not issuing an immediate reaction. When it did, the reaction was delivered in a statement read by a press undersecretary. The Foreign Office was strangely quiet.

Finally, two days ago, the President reaffirmed the Government's position that the exploratory talks are just that—open-ended discussions that may or may not result in negotiations.

Her statement may have settled qualms about the Government's stand. Yet the affair appears to shed an informative light—and a possible hint—on the negotiating styles of the two governments.

The U.S. looked as if it were pushing the pace: first by making the claim, and then immediately following it up by announcing the appointment of a special negotiator, Richard Armitage. Diplomatic moves are not a series of haphazard events, so it can be safely concluded that some thought went into the sequencing of the American actions. Considering the moves in this light, it would seem that as far as the Americans are concerned, negotiations have indeed already begun, and the U.S. has started forcing the pace.

By comparison, the Philippines came out looking indecisive and uncertain. Rather than immediately telling the Americans they were misinformed, or were correct, the Government simply kept quiet and then made a weak sally.

Precisely what Manglapus told Solomon may never be known. But it is significant that the foreign secretary did not hasten to deny the U.S. assertion. This would seem to imply either poor coordination in Mrs Aquino's Government, or tacit agreement. The President's clarification has ruled out the second possibility.

Now that the President has made the point, the U.S. no longer has any grounds for maintaining its claims. It should just concentrate on building the case it will present on the exploratory talks. If it persists on hearing another tune, then it is tone deaf.

There is of course, another possibility. This is that the Philippine Government really is not that certain about its position, and may have not precisely defined its stance for the forthcoming talks. If this is so, it would be at a grievous disadvantage, because it will be sitting across a party that knows exactly what it wants.

Perhaps, in this light, the American insistence that it is hearing a different tune may not be due to deafness after all.

Sale of Land in Manila Military Camps Considered

*HK1704123390 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
GLOBE in English 16 Apr 90 pp 1, 9*

[By staff writer Julius Fortuna]

[Text] The Joint Legislative-Executive Bases Council has revived a plan to sell disposable lands within eight military camps in Metro Manila in preparation for their relocation to American bases sites after 1991.

An updated council report said that the proceeds of the sale would be used to finance the conversion plans for Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base.

An earlier proposal to sell lands within the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] camps was presented by Rep. Jose de Venecia (LDP [Struggle of Philippine Democrats], Pangasinan), a member of the council. But the proposal was shelved because of objections raised by the AFP and Defense Undersecretary Feliciano Gacis Jr., also a member of the council.

The proposal, as revised, covers eight military camps in Metro Manila, excluding Camps Aguinaldo and Crame, which had been included in the first proposal.

The eight are Fort Bonifacio in Makati, the headquarters of the Philippine Army; Camp Abad on Roxas Blvd., headquarters of the Philippine Navy; Villamor Air Base in Pasay, headquarters of the Philippine Air Force; Camp Claudio in Manila, now site of the Central Bank building; Camp Ver in Pasig, now occupied by National Capital Region Defense Command (NCRDC); Camp Atienza in Libis, Quezon City, now occupied by an Army battalion; Camp V. Luna in Quezon City; and Camp Bago Bantay, also in Quezon City.

After 1991, the Council envisions a civil aviation complex to rise in Clark, which is now occupied by the U.S. 13th Air Force.

An industrial complex within the reverted baselands has been planned, including a "food basket" in Pampanga and Tarlac.

For Clark and Subic, the council plans to set up a maritime industrial complex and maintain the ship repair facility to be run by Filipinos.

Meanwhile, the government was urged to hasten the conversion of the U.S. bases to productive civilian use in time for their full dismantling in 1991.

The Pampanga-based Central Luzon Alliance for a Sovereign Philippines said in a statement that the forthcoming exploratory talks may just be a play to ensure the forging of a new treaty extending lease on the U.S. bases.

In Manila, the Nuclear-Free Coalition said in a statement that the government negotiators should only discuss the mechanism for the withdrawal of U.S. bases and should not entertain proposals for their extension. The group, which has international links, also called on the

American public to "oppose the U.S. government's efforts to retain the bases in the Philippines.

The bases council report said that the group decided to "plan and implement the conversion of military camps in Metro Manila, and sell as much of the disposable land to help raise funds for the conversion of baselands."

In reaction to an earlier proposal, Defense Undersecretary Gacis said that the sale might upset AFP officers and soldiers living in the camps.

Official on U.S. Corn, Soybean Meal Shipments

HK1704123790 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE in English 17 Apr 90 pp 1, 8

[By staff writer Rowena Bundang]

[Text] The United States has agreed to drop its demand that the private sector, not the National Food Authority (NFA), handle the importation of \$36 million worth of corn and soybean meal obtained through U.S. Public Law [PL] 480.

Rep. Leonardo Guerrero (LDP [Struggle of Philippine Democrats], Cavite), chairman of the agriculture committee of the House of Representatives, disclosed this development yesterday as he reported on the results of his trip to Washington last week.

In an interview, Guerrero said he told U.S. officials that if the private sector took over the importation from the NFA, traders would be able to control the prices of the commodities to the detriment of the government and the people.

Earlier, the U.S. government demanded that the importation of corn and soybean meal be handled by the private sector instead of a government agency. It said it has been imposing a similar policy on 26 other countries benefiting from the American commodity aid.

But Guerrero told officials of the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Department of Agriculture that Philippine conditions and needs differ from those of the 26 other beneficiary countries.

Guerrero criticized the U.S. demand, saying it showed lack of trust in the NFA as a government agency. Last year, Washington imposed the same condition on the importation of rice and corn following allegations of irregular practices by certain NFA officials who handled previous imports.

Guerrero also criticized Agriculture Secretary Senen Bacani for partly giving in to the U.S. demand by agreeing to allow the private sector to handle 50 percent of the proposed 100,000 metric-ton corn import. The other half would be handled by the NFA. "What is at stake...is the dignity of the Filipino people. If I were Secretary Bacani, I wouldn't agree (to the demand of) the Americans," Guerrero said.

According to Guerrero, U.S. officials told him that Bacani had not made any formal request for the \$36 million worth of corn and soybean meal, although the agriculture secretary earlier announced that Washington had agreed to supply the country with the commodities. U.S. officials told Guerrero that what Bacani had made so far were telephone calls to them to follow up the needed commodities.

Guerrero advised Bacani to submit immediately the government's written request, including details on how and where the commodities will be used.

U.S. officials agreed to Guerrero's proposal that 50,000 of the 100,000 mt [metric tons] of requested corn be shipped to the country by mid-June before the harvest season and the rest after November.

The corn shipment will be made available through Title I of PL 480 while the soybean meal, worth \$25 million, will be given free through Section 416 of the law.

Aquino May Seek Extension of Emergency Powers

HK1804070790 Baguio City Mountain Province Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] The National Security Council may recommend a one-month extension of the emergency powers of President Aquino. National Security Director Rafael Ileto said this will enable the government to neutralize the rebels and their activities and resume political and economic normalcy.

In the meantime, some of the legislators believe that there is no need to extend the president's emergency powers because she has not used those powers fully.

At the House of Representatives, majority floor leader Francisco Sululong said the president should justify the need for such an extension.

Ramos Rejects Negotiations With Rebel Soldiers

HK1804101790 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 18 Apr 90

[By Jonathan Cristobal]

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos today rejected all possibilities of negotiations between the government or the Armed Forces with rebel military soldiers of the RAM-SFP-YOU [Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union]. He made this reply to a question in a press conference at Camp Aguinaldo.

Ramos emphasized that the only alternatives left for the military mutineers is to surrender or be arrested by military authorities who are carrying out manhunt operations. According to him RAM, SFP, and YOU are not legitimate and recognized government entities, but are rebel groups that violated the revised penal code and the

military's Articles of War. However, he said that the government will welcome any rebel official or enlisted personnel who applies for the amnesty program, which is open even to the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army and the Moro National Liberation Front. But this would need the approval of Congress.

[Begin Ramos recording] *I don't think we should talk about negotiating with RAM. They are not a government entity. They are not a corporate body. They are just a rebel group who have violated our penal code and committed crimes against public order, as well as the Articles of War or the Articles of Military Justice.*

If any of them, however, come in voluntarily, they will be treated honorably; even those that have been arrested are guaranteed due process and a fair trial. [end recording]

Seized Documents Outline Honasan's Attack Plan

HK1804091190 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 18 Apr 90

[By Dick Sinchongco at Malacanang Palace—italicized portion in English]

[Text] A plan by fugitive ex-colonel Gregorio Gringo Honasan and other military rebels to attack and close down all radio, television, and media outlets simultaneous with an attack on Malacanang and military camps in Metro Manila was exposed today. This plan was contained in a document seized by government agents from rebel soldiers and which was distributed to Malacanang newsmen by Press Secretary Tomas Gomez III after it was declassified by government agents.

The rebel soldiers' ten-point execution plan also spelled out the destruction of the Armed Forces of the Philippines chain of command, takeover of airports, and the neutralization of government officials. Gomez added that media outlets currently being used by Honasan will be the first victims of the regime that he and his supporters would establish.

[Begin Gomez recording in progress] *...what Honasan is using for his end is the very system that he wants to disable as indicated in the document. And furthermore, it is very obvious that Zumel, Abenina, and himself would like to perpetuate themselves as the kingmakers in the Philippine national leadership.* [end recording]

The document also contained the rebels' analysis of their shortcomings in the 28 August 1987 coup attempt.

The rebel soldiers, to be known as the Philippine Self Defense Forces, or PSDF, will also carry out sabotage, assassinations, and kidnappings.

Ileto Rules Out New Coup; Issues Warning

HK1704072990 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] National Security Adviser Rafael Ileto has dismissed speculations that rebel forces will launch a coup and set up a shadow government outside Metro Manila. Ileto reiterated that the time was not ripe for the launching of widespread violence against the government. He added that all the rebels can do is issue statements designed to undermine the people's faith in the government.

Meanwhile, Ileto issued a warning against businessmen supporting rebel soldiers, saying that the government has information about the possible financiers of the rebel troops.

Rebel Soldiers Reported Converging in Davao

HK1804070590 Baguio City Mountain Province
Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT
18 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Defense Secretary Ramos has received reports that (?100) rebel soldiers are converging in the Davao City area. They are preparing for a pocket rebellion. In an interview yesterday with Malacanang Press Corps, Secretary Ramos indicated that the situation is under control in Davao. [sentence indistinct]

Meanwhile, Secretary Ramos as well as members of the cabinet cluster on security met in Malacanang to assess the current situation. [passage omitted]

Rebel Said Forming Own Movement in Mindanao

HK1704123190 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 13 Apr 90 p 1

[By staff member Carol Arguillas]

[Text] Davao City—Fugitive Col. Alexander Noble is breaking away from the Reform the Armed Forces Movement [RAM] to start an independent Federalist movement in Mindanao, it was disclosed yesterday by AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] vice chief of staff Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon.

Emerging from a closed-door security briefing, Biazon said "irreconcilable differences" have developed between Noble, reportedly still in hiding in Agusan, and the RAM.

Noble was chief of staff of the presidential security group before he joined the December coup attempt. Captured shortly afterwards, he escaped and took refuge among tribesmen in a forested area in Agusan.

While Noble has not cut off his links with RAM, Biazon said their differences are "material in the sense that those who may support (Noble or RAM) or people who are potential recruits to their ranks must understand this," he said.

Biazon added that military commanders in Southern Mindanao monitoring the movements of RAM and Noble told him there are "no detected or confirmed recruitment in the region" by these rebel forces.

200 NPA Rebels Attack Town in Mindoro

HK1704054590 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 17 Apr 90 p 8

[By Robert Evora]

[Text] Calapan, Oriental Mindoro—The Lucio de Guzman command of the New People's Army (NPA) operating in southern Mindoro attacked yesterday afternoon the town of Mansalay, some 150 kilometers from this capital town, and placed the municipality under its control.

The NPA rebels, numbering about 200, staged simultaneous attacks on the municipal hall, the police station, the PC [Philippine Constabulary] detachment, the Philippine Coast Guard detachment, and the residence of Mansalay Mayor Sergio Maliwanag.

Pvt. Ferdie Paghalion and two unidentified CAFGU [Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit] members were seriously wounded in the attack on the Mansalay police station, while Felipe Maquiran, 55, postal employee, was wounded in the attack on the municipal hall. A nephew of the mayor, Eleazar Maliwanag, 37, was wounded when the rebels stormed the mayor's residence.

Mayor Maliwanag was in Manila when the attack happened.

The NPA raiders were on board three trucks and six passenger jeepneys when they staged the post-Holy week offensive.

Lt. Col. Arsenio Luna, assistant provincial commander for operations, said that communication lines connecting Mansalay to Bulalakaw town were cut off by the rebels.

1st Lt. Jacinto Lanting of the Bulalakaw PC detachment and 1st Lt. Alexander Aceveda, first CAFGU company commander, were trapped in Mansalay and were still fighting the rebels as of press time.

Oriental Mindoro Gov. Benjamin Espiritu noted inadequate security in the province against rebel attacks. "He made this assessment during a meeting with the Regional Peace and Order council and at yesterday's visit of Solcom Chief Frederico Ruiz.

Colonel Luna alerted the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] command in Camp Nakar, Lucena City for a possible air support in the event the situation gets worse.

Communist Involvement in Counterfeiting Alleged

HK1704150390 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan
in Tagalog 1000 GMT 17 Apr 90

[By Jun Velosano]

[Text] The Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] and its political arm, the National Democratic Front [NDF], are allegedly actively engaged in currency counterfeiting and other criminal activities in Europe. This was revealed in documents seized from detained communist leader Antonio Gabardo, vice chief of staff of the New People's Army.

Earlier, a top NDF contact in Europe was arrested as he was making a deposit of counterfeit dollars at a bank. This was also disclosed in the seized documents. Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police chief Brigadier General Cesar Nazareno identified the man as Adolphus Hutbas, chairman of the NDF Foundation based in the Netherlands. Nazareno said that Hutbas served as a courier for CPP-New People's Army founder Jose Maria Sison and is a close friend of former priest Luis Jalandoni, the NDF's international representative.

Former Central Bank Chief Faces Graft Charges

HK1804055190 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY
in English 18 Apr 90 pp 1, 2

[By reporter Merlinda Manalo]

[Text] The Office of Ombudsman yesterday filed graft charges against recently retired Central Bank [CB] Governor Jose "Jobo" B. Fernandez Jr. before the Sandiganbayan, the anti-graft court, for allegedly continuing to hold financial interest at the Far East Bank and Trust Company [FEBTC] through a dummy corporation during his term as CB chief.

Fernandez, who retired last March after serving a CB tenure under two presidents, was publicly known to have divested himself of his holdings at FEBTC, the country's largest private commercial bank, when he accepted the CB post in 1984.

The criminal complaint alleged this was not so.

With the filing of the complaint, Fernandez became the first former high official of the Aquino administration to be formally charged at the Sandiganbayan.

A number of complaints against Fernandez, arising from his decisions as CB governor in some bank cases, had been filed at the Tanodbayan during his term. But none of these prospered. The charges against Fernandez involved violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act and Republic Act 265 or the Central Bank Act. Fernandez was president of FEBTC until his appointment as CB governor on January 19, 1984.

Also charged with Fernandez was Louic P. Jalbuena, LPJ Investment Corporation president. Fernandez allegedly

transferred his FEBTC shares to the investment firm to continue holding "financial and pecuniary interest" at the bank.

Special Prosecution Officer Roger C. Berbano said in the charge sheet that Fernandez purportedly sold 127,786 shares and subscription rights of his two firms which held his FEBTC shares to the LPJ Investment Corp.; 27,766 of the shares were from Fernandez's Far East Piggeries Inc. and 100,000 were from his JBF Investments Company. Fernandez allegedly sold the shares to Jalbuena for P[pesos]40 million, with a downpayment of P4 million, although Jalbuena's firm had only P20,000 paid-up capital.

Berbano lined up two witnesses against Fernandez—Sebastian Palanca of the CB personnel department and Aida Gaetoes, chief of the Securities and Exchange Commission's record division.

A bail of P20,000 was recommended for each of the accused.

Ombudsman Conrado Vasquez said the transaction between Fernandez and Jalbuena was "clearly a conditional purchase." Thus, "both accused conspired and confederated with one another," in simulating the divestment of Fernandez's business interests at FEBTC.

Vasquez said that as CB governor, Fernandez was prohibited by the Constitution and the Central Bank Act to have any "financial or pecuniary interest, directly or indirectly in FEBTC" or any commercial banking institution, wherein he had to intervene or take part in his official capacity as CB governor.

Central Bank Reports on Foreign Equity Infusions

HK18040/ 290 Manila BUSINESS STAR in English
18 Apr 90 p 2

[By Rica D. Delfinado]

[Text] Actual foreign capital infusions into various sectors of the domestic economy reached a cumulative total of \$3.138 billion in February this year, latest statistics from the Central Bank (CB) indicate.

The CB, which monitors the amount of direct foreign equity investments which has entered the country since February 1970, said the cumulative figure was 7.28% more than the \$2.925 billion inflow recorded the same month last year.

The figures represent registered direct foreign equity investments or investments which have already been remitted to the country. These contrast with approved direct foreign equity investments which are still to arrive in Philippine shores.

For the month of February alone, direct foreign investments amounted to \$13 million, the same level reached

last year. Compared with the month-ago level of \$20.81 million, this year's February infusions was lower by \$7.81 million.

On the other hand, last February's approved direct foreign equity investments was an 8.4% hike from the \$2.925 billion of last year to \$3.575 billion this year. Against this, last February's registered direct foreign equity investments reflected a high inflow actualization rate of 87.7%. This was also the actualization rate in January.

By sector, it was in the commercial sector—composed of real estate and trading—where foreign capital infusions last February grew fastest, at 23.2%, from \$125 million last year to \$154 million this year. This reflected the continued bullish interest of foreign investors in real estate and trading activities in the country during the reference period.

The manufacturing sector, though, still took the lion's share of additional foreign capital infusions, at 48% of the total. In real terms, manufacturing got direct foreign equity investments amounting to \$1.516 billion, 7.4% more than the \$1.410 billion which flowed into the country in February last year.

Manufacturing's foreign capital intake last February specifically went to the chemicals and chemical products subsector, at \$414 million; food processing \$297 million; metal and metal products, \$170 million; textile and garments, \$113 million; and the tail-end, construction, which took in \$15.59 million.

Mining trailed manufacturing with foreign capital intake totaling \$832 million or 26.5% of total infusions. The real figure was 5.5% more than the \$780 million that mining got in February 1989.

The third most heavily invested sector of the economy during the period under review was banks and other financial institutions. This sector grabbed \$390 million, 12.4% of the total and 7.78% more than last year's \$362 million.

The rest of the investments were farmed out to such other sectors as agriculture, fishery and forestry, at \$47.29 million and public utility, \$41 million.

The United States remained the biggest supplier of foreign capital with \$1.727 billion or 55% of the total registered direct foreign capital investments. Japan came in next, with \$450 million. Japanese investments, though, outpaced the U.S. in terms of growth, at 13% as against the latter's 4.16%. Hong Kong came in third, with infusions reaching \$207 million, followed by Netherlands which injected \$148 million.

'Indicator' Views Increase in Number of Strikes

HK1104073790 Manila BUSINESS STAR in English
11 Apr 90 p 2

["Indicator" column by Conrado M. Diaz Jr.: "More Workers Joined Strikes in 1st Quarter of 1990"]

[Text] The labor front seems to be simmering anew as more workers resorted to strikes in the first quarter of this year to force management to settle their grievances.

Actual strikes and lock-outs which erupted throughout the country during the first quarter numbered 57, just three incidents more than the 54 cases reported during the same period last year. But according to the latest situationer by the National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB), the number of workers involved in this year's declared work stoppages was 23,518, hefty 119.46% more than the 10,716 who left their jobs in protest last year. Consequently, there was also 17.24% more man-days lost during the reference period this year as against last year. This, in real terms, is 238,000 man-days lost this year as against 203,000 last year.

On a month-to-month basis, the number of strikes and lock-outs declared this year was 15 last January, 22 last February and 20 last month. This compares with the 19, 22 and 13 incidents, respectively reported during the same three months last year.

The highest year-to-month increase in incidence was recorded last month at 35%, from 13 cases last year to 20 this year. Most of the establishments involved were in the manufacturing sector.

Of the total number of strikes and lock-outs which erupted this year, 38 or 67% were triggered by unfair labor practices (ULP), inclusive of such issues as dismissal of union officers/members, union busting, discrimination against or harassment of union members, refusal to bargain and violation of collective bargaining agreement (CBA).

Deadlock in bargaining negotiations involving both economic and non-economic issues were raised in 19 or 33% of the total strikes and lock-outs declared.

The labor department's performance in disposing of the cases brought to its attention was better this year, at 80% or 53 of the total 66 cases handled. This compared favorably with last year when the department's disposition rate was only 72% or 43 out of a total 60 cases handled.

In terms of the form of disposition, 17 of the 20 cases disposed last month were settled amicably while two were placed under the jurisdiction of the labor secretary. One case was certified for arbitration by the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC).

Of the disposed cases, 14 were left pending in 4 regions during the first three months this year. The regions are: Metro Manila; Central Luzon; Southern Luzon; and, Northern Mindanao.

Meanwhile, notices of strike and lockout filed during the first quarter this year totaled 426, up 6% from 401 during the same period last year. The year's notices consists of 420 for strikes and six for lockouts. Issues being raised are ULP for 341 of the cases and CBA deadlock in 84 of the same notices filed. One of the notices involves violation of labor standards.

Actual Strikes/Lockouts

First Quarter

	1989		1990	
	Declared	Disposed	Declared	Disposed
January	19	16	15	20
February	22	18	22	13
March	13	9	20	20
Total Cases	54	43	57	53
Handled		60		66
Disposition Rate		72%		80%
Workers Involved		10,716		3,518
Man-Days Lost		203,000		238,000

Source: NCMB

Thailand

U.S. Senator's Bills' Effects on Firms Viewed

BK1804023590 Bangkok THE NATION in English
18 Apr 90 p 26

[By Aphisak Thanasetthakon]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's request for the Agriculture Ministry to collect data on products imported from Burma and re-exported to the United States is a move worth watching. The objective is to lobby against the US Senate Bill, S822, sponsored by Daniel Moynihan, the Democratic senator from Massachusetts [as published].

Moynihan complains that Burma has earned US\$17 million from fishing rights granted to the fleets of Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia and South Korea. He says more than half of the money has been spent by the Rangoon government on strengthening its armed forces, rather than to develop the economy and improve the well-being of the Burmese people.

He hopes that the legislation will exert economic pressure on the Burmese government, but Thailand will unavoidably be affected. The bill proposes bans on US imports of four products of Burmese origin—teak, teak products, fish or other aquatic animals and products of fish and other aquatic animals.

US importers have to declare the origin of all teak wood or teak products. They have to specify territorial waters where imported fish or aquatic animals were caught if these products are imported from Burma or passed through Burma or are imported from a country—such as Thailand—that has a fishing agreement with Burma.

Moynihan says that following the visit of General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, at that time Thai supreme commander, to Burma in December 1988, several Thai companies were awarded logging concessions in Burma allowing them to import millions of tonnes of wood.

In the middle of last year, Agriculture Minister Sanan Khachonprasat also visited Rangoon and signed an agreement under which the government's Forestry Industry Organization (FIO) and Thai Plywood Co were also awarded concessions in a border area opposite Prachuap Khirikhan province. The FIO started felling timber in Burma earlier this year.

If the Senate passes Bill S822, Thai logging companies will therefore be affected, and the impact will be significant.

Ever since the closure of 276 forestry concessions in Thailand following the floods and landslides of December 1988, Thai companies involved in logging or related activities have depended on imports from Vietnam, Malaysia, Cambodia, Burma and elsewhere.

Eighteen Thai companies were awarded some of the 43 logging concessions granted by the Burmese government. The 18 are: Mae Moei Industry, Union Par, Salaween Joint Venture, Thai Sawat Import, Pathumthani Tangka Kan, Muang Pana, Chao Phya Irrawaddy, Thai Pong Saw Mill, Thai Teakwood Veneer, Phatum Thani Saw Mill, Chiang Mai BNA, Mae Sot Panakit, Sila International, BNA Enterprise, Silom Complex, Khum Thong Saw Mill, Chok Pana (1969) and Thanakit Timber.

The repercussions will be felt on the Thai furniture manufacturing industry which depends on the United States as its main market—earning Bt [Baht] 3 billion-Bt4 billion a year or about 60-70 per cent of the total export earnings of the industry. The 18 companies with Burmese concessions are important suppliers of the furniture industry.

Ari Phusombun, head of the furniture section of the Federation of Thai Industries, says there ought to be plenty of scope for the sector to expand its exports to the United States. He said Thai teak, pradu, and para rubber furniture is developing an identity and is popular in the United States. The various Thai factories are operating at full capacity because of the large amounts of orders, he says.

Last year, Thai timber imports totalled five million cubic metres, costing more than Bt2 billion. Out of this, more than three million cubic metres came from Malaysia alone, Ari says. He argues that although 18 Thai companies have concessions, their production is hampered by

fighting between the Burmese government and ethnic minorities in the concession areas. Only five companies are able to bring timber out of Burma, he says.

Rangoon is also increasing the minimum size of the trees that can be felled from 120 cm circumference for teak trunks and 90 cm for krayaloei trees to 180 cm for both, Ari continues, which will cut output from Burma by more than half from the previously expected 300,000 and 500,000 for the two kinds of trees. Therefore, he concludes, Burmese wood is only a small proportion of Thailand's total use.

As for fisheries products, Moynihan's bill is likely to have an impact on Thai exports of canned tuna and frozen seafood as well as on related activities such as cold storage, ship building, net manufacturing and employment in the sector.

The sector as a whole earns the country more than Bt30 billion annually. Fishing itself is worth Bt10 billion, and canned tuna another Bt10 billion. The sector has risen to second place among Thai exports.

Thai companies likely to be affected directly by the bill include Suphachok Fishing, Narong Canning, Sirichai Fishing, Thip Than Thong, Mar and Co, Atlantis, and Thai-Myanmar [Burma] (1990) Fishing, which signed an agreement in Rangoon earlier this month.

The defence that the Fisheries Department is preparing for the Foreign Ministry to take to Washington includes the argument that many Thai companies have now cancelled their concessions because competition among intermediary brokers has driven up the fee to be paid to Rangoon from \$600 to \$900 per gross tonne per year. This, the department says, has turned fishing in Burmese waters unprofitable.

The number of vessels, which rose from an original 46 to 238 has now slumped because of the unprofitability, the department adds. It estimates that of the average of two million tonnes per year caught by the Thai fleet between 1982 and 1987—2.8 million tonnes in 1987—only about one percent or 27,000 tonnes came from Burma. Much of the tuna used for canning is imported through US brokers, the department says.

Thai officials argue that the United States, as a model of democracy and free trade, should not prevent other countries from trading with each other. Even communist countries such as the Soviet Union and China attach importance to free trade which they consider to be the best system, the officials say.

American goodwill towards Thailand is considered to be under test in this case, as it is with the rice subsidies of the Farm Act, the protectionist sentiments of the US Trade Bill and the sanctions threatened because of Thailand's cigarette import ban.

Premier's Adviser on UK-EC Cambodia Stand

*BK1804011190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
18 Apr 90 p 2*

[Text] Thailand, as well as other participants in the Cambodia issue, must accelerate the Cambodian peace process, and take into consideration the "fast-moving" trend in Europe that favours more contacts with Hanoi and Phnom Penh, the Prime Minister's son and policy adviser Kraissak Chunhawan said yesterday. Mr Kraissak was commenting on the communication by a senior British official informing the Foreign Ministry that the United Kingdom and the European Community would find it difficult to continue support for the resistance seat at this year's United Nations General Assembly.

"If such a trend among the European countries keeps its present dynamics, the outcome would be de facto recognition of the Phnom Penh regime," he told the BANGKOK POST.

The statement by British Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs R. McLaren, spelling out the "difficulty" of Britain and the EC in continuing support for the Cambodian resistance seat in the United Nations, underscored the trend that the 12 European nations are on the way to establish more contacts with Vietnam and the Phnom Penh Government.

"Such a fast-moving trend in the European Community makes me concerned that we might not be able to move as fast as the Europeans do, while here, we have supported the Khmer Rouge and the resistance warfare for over ten years," Mr Kraissak said. "If this trend in Europe keeps moving at this rapid speed, I'll be very worried," Mr Kraissak added.

Mr Kraissak added that apart from the British statement, he had learnt that the Italian Foreign Minister last month announced that Italy would not support the Cambodian resistance coalition that includes the Khmer Rouge. A way out of the situation, he said, would be to accelerate the peace process.

Mr Kraissak said he thought the British statement could have been prompted by domestic pressure to de-recognise the resistance coalition, and "perhaps the failure of previous peace talks."

A continuation of this tendency in Europe would also result in multiple contacts with Phnom Penh not only in the field of humanitarian assistance but other areas as well.

There would be moves to channel more and more financial support through the United Nations and international agencies towards Phnom Penh, the adviser said, citing UNESCO and UNDP [United Nations Development Program] delegations, the UNHCR's [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees] agreement with the Phnom Penh Government to set up a reception

centre for displaced Cambodians from Thailand, and the enlarged role of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Cambodia.

Further underscoring the strength of this trend is the EC support for the neutral camps, he added.

"This is unequivocal. Given the breakdown of ideological barriers between Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union and Western Europe, they are adopting such a policy perspective towards this region. The US, Japan and China do not have that perspective because they are not as close to those sweeping changes as the Europeans are," Mr Kraissak said.

On the question of accelerating the Cambodian peace progress by regional participants, the adviser said that Japan, which reacted positively to Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's request to host a Cambodian dialogue between resistance leader Prince Sihanouk and Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen, is currently looking into the two sides.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila said the EC had informed ASEAN of its position at its February meeting in Kuching, Malaysia, that if there was no progress on the settlement front, they would prefer the Cambodian seat at the UN vacated in the forthcoming General Assembly session.

Regarding the proposed talks between China, Vietnam and Thailand, ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi said China would respond after meeting with Vietnam later this month or next month.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Somphong Faichampa said the United Kingdom and the European Community still supported the ASEAN approach in resolving the Cambodian conflict. He said EC countries had informed the Khmer Rouge of the sentiments of their people towards them.

Mr Somphong said there are still five more months before the United Nations General Assembly is to meet and this provides sufficient opportunity to find a solution.

Cabinet Endorses Repatriating Singapore Workers

*BK1804015190 Bangkok THE NATION in English
18 Apr 90 p 1*

[By Thammasak Lamaiphan, Phanni Nanthachala-konkit]

[Text] The Cabinet yesterday endorsed a proposal by Deputy Interior Minister Watthana Atsawahem to arrange for the voluntary repatriation of Thai workers from Singapore as a protest of alleged poor treatment of the labourers in that country.

Watthana told reporters that Defence Minister Gen [General] Chawalit Yongchaiyut had offered to provide air and sea transportation for workers who wished to return.

Finance Minister Pramuah Saphawasu also agreed to negotiate with commercial banks to which some Thai workers in Singapore owe money to postpone debt repayments and reduce the labourers' interest rates, Watthana said.

There are at present an estimated 30,000 Thais working legally in Singapore.

The Cabinet also agreed to a proposal by Watthana to stop promoting the export of Thai labour on the grounds that Thailand's economic expansion had increased job opportunities at home.

Watthana continued his attack on Singapore yesterday for allegedly failing to be concerned with Thai workers' welfare, an issue that has become highly publicized following the mysterious deaths of at least 14 Thai workers since the beginning of the year. Singapore's Labour Department has lashed back to earlier attacks, calling Watthana's claims "absurd."

The Ratsadon deputy minister accused Singapore yesterday of failing to cooperate with the Thai Labour Department by refusing to check employment visas for Thais or to comply with other requests from the Thai agency. "We asked them to check them out because we want to find measures to reduce the number of Thai people working illegally in Singapore but the government claimed that it could not meddle with the private sector. This operation to transport Thai workers back will be the second and the last," he said.

In an unprecedented move last year, the Thai government sent navy ships to evacuate about 10,000 Thai labourers working without permits to help them evade punishment by caning as stipulated by Singaporean labour law.

Watthana said that the Thai government would not cooperate with Singapore any longer if the country needs labourers in the future.

"There are enough jobs for Thai people at home," he said, adding that Singapore should thank Thai workers for contributing to its economic growth.

"I don't think the pay given by the Singaporeans to the Thai workers would be enough to make the Thais feel grateful to them," he said.

Deputy Labour Department Director General Prasong Rannanon said the department had instructed Rachen Nithiprapha, the Thai labour attache in Singapore, to find out how many Thai workers wished to return home.

Prasong said a group of Thai workers rallied at the office of the Thai labour attache in Singapore to demand that

their employers provide them with better living conditions. He said that the Labour Department would find out how many positions are available for prospective returnees.

Government Spokesman Suwit Yotmani said Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan voiced concern about the Thai workers' conditions in Singapore and had asked ministers involved with the case to report the latest findings on the unexplained deaths to him.

Deputy Public Health Minister Suthat Ngoenmun reported to the Cabinet that preliminary findings indicated the deaths might have been caused by a combination of a lack of potassium, mental pressure and hard work. But he said the Public Health Ministry and doctors from the University Affairs Bureau are continuing to investigate the role that PVC plastic pipes used by Thai workers to cook glutinous rice may have played in the deaths.

A team comprising doctors from the Public Health Ministry and the University Affairs Bureau has been in Singapore since Monday to study the syndrome with cooperation from the Singaporean Public Health Ministry and is expected to complete its mission on April 21, Suthat said.

At the Cabinet meeting, Watthana also told the Cabinet that the Thai workers' living conditions as he saw in Singapore were still poor and that he had urged the Singaporean authorities to improve the situation, Suwit said. The spokesman said the Cabinet resolved that the Labour Department should slow down or stop promoting the labour exports to other countries because the Thai economy was expanding.

The Labour Department was instructed to help ease the plight of Thai workers overseas, he said. "If possible, the Labour Department may arrange for the return of these Thai workers to Thailand," Suwit added.

Heroin Seized at Burmese Border After Shootout

*BK1704011990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
17 Apr 90 p 6*

[Text] Chiang Mai Border Patrol Police officers at Dara Ratsami Camp yesterday showed some 4.5 kilogrammes of pure heroin that they seized after intercepting a heroin caravan from Burma in Doi Thuai, Chiang Dao district. Commander of BPP Unit 33, Colonel Kullachet Singkhon na Ayutthaya, said there were about 20 people in the caravan, including porters and armed guards.

The Burmese drug smugglers fired at his men when they were stopped after entering Thai territory at Doi Thuai on Sunday, [15 April] night, he said. The initial shootout lasted about 15 minutes but his men were unable to clear the area until yesterday morning because the Burmese smugglers stayed put and fired at anything that moved throughout the night, Col Kullachet said.

Two fertiliser bags were left behind by the smugglers, one containing 4.5 kg of heroin, packed in 13 plastic bags, and the other clothing and necessities, he said. A number of expended rifle shells were also found.

Col Kullachet said he believed there was a heroin refinery inside Burma, opposite here.

Drug Traffickers Use 'Fake' Nigerian Passports

*BK1804013590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
18 Apr 90 p 6*

[Text] Not all of the "Nigerians" arrested for alleged trafficking in heroin are Nigerian nationals, according to Nigerian Ambassador to the Philippines Aisha Jimeta. Foreign Ministry spokesman Somphong Faichampa said Ambassador Jimeta made the comment yesterday during her meeting with Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila at the Foreign Ministry.

ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi is scheduled to escort Ambassador Jimeta to present her credentials to His Majesty the King today. Mr Somphong quoted the Nigerian ambassador, whose responsibility also covers Thailand, as saying that she had checked with her records which revealed that not all of the African suspects arrested are Nigerian.

Ambassador Jimeta did not say how many of the suspects were not Nigerians, but reportedly told ACM Sitthi that some of the suspects held fake Nigerian passports or managed to buy legal passports. The ambassador said that she had checked the name of the last Nigerian to be arrested and found that the passport holder was not the same person the document was issued to.

Apart from the problem of Nigerians being involved in drug-trafficking, Mr Somphong said the ambassador expressed her country's wishes to set up a permanent mission in Bangkok. The ambassador said it was time for Nigeria to set up an embassy in Bangkok because of the extensive political and economic interests between the two countries.

Mr Somphong said Nigeria, a major buyer of Thai rice, established relations with Thailand in 1962. A Thai embassy was set up in the Nigerian capital of Lagos 10 years ago, Mr Somphong said, adding that the ministry welcomes the setting-up of a permanent Nigerian mission in Bangkok.

—Meanwhile, three Nigerians and two Americans were arrested on Monday night [16 April] on charges of possessing heroin. They were arrested from the Sisupharat Mansion apartment in Soi Phahonyothin 14, Phaya Thai District, after police claimed to have found 5.9 kilogrammes of heroin in their possession.

The Nigerians were identified as Victor Olalekan Bamidele, 36, Ms Codelia Kokumo Edinbus-Nji, 30, and Oluwole Olufemi Oniyide, 28. The Americans were identified as Ms Iris Louise Merriouns, 30, and Ms Jieun Kim, 21.

Bamidele and Oniyide suffered injuries in their attempt to escape by jumping through a third-floor window to the ground. They were taken to the Police Hospital for treatment.

Police chief General Sawaeng Thirasawat alleged that the suspects planned to smuggle the heroin to the United States and Europe through Japan instead of Nigeria.

Gen Saweng said the Metropolitan Police Narcotics Suppression Unit was recently asked by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the US Drug Enforcement Administration to investigate drug-trafficking routes after they discovered that Nigerian traffickers had been smuggling narcotics from Thailand to the United States and Canada since February.

On Monday night, a Thai woman identified as Mrs Runchit Sukhumwan, 45, was also arrested in front of the Jusco Department Store on Phahonyothin Road after police found five kilos of heroin in her possession.

Royal Decree Convenes 1990 Parliament for 1 May

*BK1704152390 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5
in Thai 1300 GMT 17 Apr 90*

[Text] Royal signature: Phumiphon Adunyadet, Rex, given on 12 April 1990, the 45th year of the present reign.

His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet has ordered that it be announced that the House of Representatives has set the date for the annual ordinary parliamentary session on 1 May in accordance with Article 115 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand.

His majesty the king, empowered by Articles 117, 120, and 159 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, hereby graciously orders that a royal decree be issued convening the ordinary parliamentary session of 1990 on 1 May 1990.

Countersigned: General Chatchai Chunhawan, prime minister

Vietnam

Nguyen Van Linh Addresses Cadres Conference

*BK1804045490 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 17 Apr 90*

[Text] Key leading cadres of the various departments, sectors, and mass organizations at the central, provincial, municipal, and special zone levels throughout the country held a conference from 10 to 13 April in Hanoi to study the resolution of the sixth party Central Committee's eighth plenum. Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh attended and addressed the conference. Members of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and Secretariat Nguyen Thanh Binh, Dao Duy

Tung, and Nguyen Duc Tam directed the conference and personally elaborated on the contents of party Central Committee resolutions.

Addressing the conference, Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh thoroughly analyzed the world and domestic situation. He urged cadres and party members at all levels and sectors to carry out in an exemplary manner the pressing political and socioeconomic tasks. As an immediate step, he said, it is necessary to satisfactorily popularize and implement the party Central Committee's eighth plenum resolution; strengthen unity, single-mindedness, and identity of views; uphold the sense of organization and discipline and the spirit of revolutionary vigilance; continue to promote democracy within the party and in society; espouse the spirit of national independence and self-sufficiency; link the study of the resolution with the practice of self-criticism and criticism; and work out specific programs of practical activities for all cadres and party members at each level to concentrate on carrying out the most pressing tasks with realistic results.

Vo Chi Cong Attends Infantry School Ceremony

*BK1704092490 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1400 GMT 16 Apr 90*

[Nguyen Anh Chinh report—portions recorded]

[Summary] On the morning of 15 April, cadres, cadets, and personnel of Infantry Officers School No. 1 joyfully celebrated the school's 45th founding anniversary. "Seen seated on the grandstand were Vo Chi Cong, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of State; Senior Lieutenant General Tran Van Quang, vice minister of national defense; Senior Lt. Gen. Nguyen Nam Khanh, member of the party Central Committee and deputy director of the General Political Department; and Nguyen Viet Dung, secretary general of the Office of the National Assembly and the Council of State. Also present were representatives of various branches and sectors at the central level and in Hanoi, organs of the Ministry of National Defense, units, and schools; and many former cadres and cadets of the school." In his report, Major General Nguyen Han, the school director, said:

[Begin recording] The school has studied and developed new tactical concepts, methods, and formats at the detachment level for inclusion in its training curricula. When applied to reality, the knowledge gained at the school has enhanced fighting efficiency and helped save the blood and bones of soldiers on the battlefield. After the three wars of resistance, many graduates from the school have now become army generals and mid- and high-level cadres serving in various organs and branches of the party and state. Some 16 school graduates have been awarded the title "Hero of the Armed Forces."

Over the past 45 years, the school has turned out 65,000 officers and received 15 assorted orders from the National Assembly. It was decorated with the Freedom

Order by the party and state of Laos in 1985 on the occasion of its 40th founding anniversary. The school has also received the lofty title "Hero Unit of the People's Armed Forces" from the party and state. [end recording]

"Speaking to school cadres, cadets, and personnel, Chairman Vo Chi Cong praised the school for its great efforts and its contributions to the cause of army building and national development over the past 45 years. He said Infantry Officers School No. 1 is a source of pride for our Army. Recalling the special concern reserved by Uncle Ho for the school, which he visited on nine occasions and to which he sent many letters of greetings, Chairman Vo Chi Cong urged the school's cadres, cadets, and personnel to remember and act in accordance with the six golden words embroidered on the standard which Uncle Ho personally presented to the school 44 years ago, on 26 May 1946: Loyal to country, filial to people.

"After analyzing the world and domestic situation in the spirit of the resolution of the party Central Committee's eighth plenum, and pointing out the tasks of our Army in general, Chairman Vo Chi Cong said:

[Begin recording] "Dear comrades, as the school is a center for training cadres for our Army so they can satisfactorily fulfill the tasks entrusted by the party and state, you must firmly grasp the following issues:

"First, we must continue to study and firmly grasp our party's political and military viewpoints as well as its renovative line and creatively apply them to the school's task of training cadres. Since the school is a center for training commanding officers for detachments comprising elements of various armed branches, comrades, you must be clearly aware that only with a strong contingent of detachment cadres can we transform all the lines, viewpoints, and policies of the party, the law of the state, and directives and orders from the higher echelons into revolutionary actions of the masses.

"Second, we must further step up scientific research, especially on combat tactics at the detachment level, to suit the reality of the war for national defense at present. Attention must be given to developing the valuable experiences gained by the Army during the glorious wars of resistance in the past, creatively applying them to the training of troops.

"Third, to accomplish the tasks cited above the school must concentrate on building a contingent of cadres and instructors who are truly exemplary in terms of qualifications and abilities and who are fully capable of carrying out the tasks entrusted by the Army. Every cadre and instructor must strive for self-improvement by conducting voluntary study to gain modern knowledge and to overcome all difficulties and the tendency to shun hardship.

"Fourth, under the current conditions, comrades, you must firmly uphold and develop the tradition of self-sufficiency and self-strengthening and surmount all obstacles in improving training fields, drilling grounds, and training materials and equipment, and in maintaining the cadets' living conditions. Fifth, the infantry officers school must serve as a true model in developing a pattern of standardization by scrupulously carrying out party lines, viewpoints, and policies, as well as the law of the state and army discipline; building up and developing a fine relationship between the Army and the people; and maintaining good relations with international cadets now attending the school.

"Leading comrades of the Ministry of National Defense must work out and satisfactorily implement a program designed to select outstanding soldiers from the various units for training at the school. At the same time, comprehensive attention should be given to creating conditions for the Infantry Officers School No. 1 to fulfill its tasks." [end recording]

On behalf of the Ministry of National Defense, Senior Lieutenant General Tran Van Quang pledged, with the chairman of the Council of State, to vigorously implement all assigned tasks. He also instructed the school to continue improving the quality of training activities to meet the requirements of the revolution in the new situation.

Pham Van Dong Addresses Linguists' Congress

*BK1704090990 Hanoi VNA in English 0702 GMT
17 Apr 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 17—A congress was held here yesterday to set up the Vietnamese Linguists' Association with the participation of linguists from scientific institutions, universities, colleges and concerned offices throughout the country. Also present were scientists from Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union and the United States and cultural attaches of foreign embassies here.

In his opening speech, Prof. Hoang Phe, head of the preparatory committee for the foundation of the association, said that although linguistics is a fledgling scientific sphere in Vietnam a small number of Vietnamese linguists have over recent years recorded considerable achievements in studying phonetics, syntax, grammar and history of the Vietnamese language, improving its terminology, carrying out surveys on languages of ethnic minorities, and compiling bilingual dictionaries.

The associations's draft statute and draft programme of actions were introduced on this occasion for discussion among its members.

Pham Van Dong, advisor to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, attended and addressed the congress.

He highlighted Ho Chi Minh's linguistic style and his using language as a sharp weapon in the struggle for

national independence and socialist construction. He expressed his hope that the association would contribute to standardizing the Vietnamese language, preserving its purity and enriching national language.

Fifth Phase of Anti-Crime Campaign Launched

*BK1804092290 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1430 GMT 16 Apr 90*

[Text] According to Comrade Trinh Van Tam of the Ministry of the Interior, as of 15 April the fifth phase of implementation of Directive No. 135 of the Council of Ministers began in all localities throughout the country. On the first day in Hanoi, Haiphong, Ha Son Binh, Ha Nam Ninh, and Hoang Lien Son, with the coordination of the people, the people's police forces rounded up 293 criminals, destroyed many brothels, and arrested large numbers of brothel owners and prostitutes. In Hoang Lien Son, Haiphong, Hanoi, and Ha Bac, the people's police forces dealt with 10 cases involving 17 violators of the economic law.

In Haiphong, police discovered and arrested seven persons at the city port on charges of stealing 250 electronic calculators valued at 30 million dong. Preparation of files for legal action against these people is underway. In Quang Binh, police apprehended four fugitive criminals on the wanted list and raided a gambling den, from which millions of dong and an AK rifle were seized. In Thua Thien-Hue, four brothel owners and prostitutes were caught red-handed by police. Meanwhile, two criminals were successfully encouraged to surrender themselves to the police by a mass movement launched earlier in the province. In Khanh Hoa, police discovered and arrested many criminals, swindlers, and organizers of illegal departures from the country. In Son La, the people's police forces detected and apprehended a smuggler, seizing 8.5 kilograms of opium. Through traffic inspection and control, the people's police forces in Bac Thai Province dealt with 39 cases involving violation of traffic regulations by motorists and motorcycle riders, imposed fines on various petty offences with a total of 268,000 dong, and confiscated 1,482 kilograms of copper and 0.5 kilogram of opium together with some opium pipes.

On the first day of the crackdown, the people's police forces in all localities throughout the country swiftly raided many hideouts of gangs of hooligans and thieves, rounded up large numbers of brothel owners and prostitutes, apprehended many criminals and violators of economic law, and recovered large quantities of stolen or misappropriated items for the state and the people. This has heartily been cheered by the masses and society.

Further on Ministry's Update

*BK1804092890 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 17 Apr 90*

[Text] According to Comrade Trinh Van Tam of the Ministry of Interior, on 16 April, the people's police in

various localities throughout the country continued implementing the fifth phase of the Council of Ministers' Directive No. 135, which is spearheaded against criminals, economic lawbreakers, speculators, and corrupt elements.

In Ha Bac, traffic police intercepted and seized a military truck carrying 27 reams of Chinese-made cloth, five gunny sacks of Chinese beer, and other commodities. The truck driver resisted arrest and fired at the policemen. However, he has been detained for prosecution. In Lang Son, traffic police spotted and stopped a military truck carrying 270 cartons of 555 cigarettes and two tonnes of copper for a private individual. Meanwhile, police in Kien Giang Province arrested 15 dangerous criminals and coordinated with the local market management forces in seizing a contraband shipment of 420 cartons of foreign cigarettes and other assorted goods worth more than 10 million dong from a truck with Minh Hai Province license plate number 69A-4219. In Thai Binh Province, the people's police busted four major smuggling cases, seizing hundreds of millions of dong in cash and 180 cases of Chinese beer. They also confiscated 151 banned video and music tapes.

In Ho Chi Minh City, many brothel owners and prostitutes were apprehended. Two cases of smuggling foreign goods were uncovered with 4,200 cartons of foreign cigarettes, 11,000 sheets of corrugated iron, and a large volume of other valuable commodities seized. Some 143 banned video tapes were also confiscated. In Hanoi, the economic police and public security service uncovered an embezzlement involving some cadres of position and authority at the Tay Bac Building Materials, Construction, and Assembly Company, an affiliate of the Commerce Ministry's General Domestic Construction and Assembly Corporation. The cadres embezzled tens of millions of dong, purportedly for housing projects, in loans fraudulently secured from the bank. In particular, the company director pocketed some 18 million dong; his deputy, 6.5 million; and deputy head of the company's planning office, 50 million. The municipal public security service has so far recovered a total of 9.7 million dong. Meanwhile, the board of directors of the Vegetables and Fruits Export-Import Company No. 1 was found to have misappropriated 500 million dong by forging invoices. The municipal public security service has proposed that the Ministry of Finance recover this sum of money for the state budget.

Minh Hai Units Illegally Import Luxury Goods

BK1604102290 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Citing as an excuse the shortage of operating funds after fulfilling their financial obligation to the sectors concerned, many organs and units in Minh Hai have recently bought and sold goods which are prohibited from importation. Billions of dong worth of luxury goods have been brought into Minh Hai as shipments carried out under joint ventures with foreign countries.

On the night of 28 March, members of the provincial youth union's assault brigade were arrested by economic police units of the province and Ca Mau city on a smuggling charge as they were loading contraband into cars at Fishing Wharf No. 207 of the provincial fishing sector. The seized contraband, which comprised more than 150 large cases of beer and 13 boxes of 555 cigarettes, were estimated to be worth a total of 30 million dong.

Socioeconomic Results in Mountain Areas Reported

BK1704145190 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] It is reported that by now about 2 million people of the ethnic minorities have settled down for sedentary life and farming. These results are of great significance as Vietnam now has about 3 million ethnic minority people of 50 different groups living in the midlands and mountains. In the past, these minority people lived a nomadic life with a very backward farming method. Food per capita in many areas was very low.

To develop the socioeconomy in the mountain areas, stabilize the ethnic minority people's life and production, abolish their superstitious practices, and bring literacy to villages are the targets of the Vietnamese party and state in building a prosperous Vietnam. Among those who have settled down for sedentary life, 30 percent now lead a stable life and are getting rich. Many areas have grown two wet-dry crops per year with high productivity. Worthy of note, hundreds of thousands of hectares of land have been cultivated, hundreds of thousands of hectares of special forests have been exploited and developed, and hundreds of children of the ethnic minorities have gained advanced technological, medical, cultural, educational, and art knowledge. The party and state campaign for settling down ethnic minorities has achieved initial good results, producing a great amount of goods for the society and heightening the general knowledge of the ethnic minority people in Vietnam.

Nomadic People Settle

BK1704075290 Hanoi VNA in English 0653 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 16—Almost 1.9 million nomadic people of ethnic minorities in the country have over the past 20 years settled down for sedentary farming.

The new settlers have reclaimed 133,300 hectares [ha] of waste lands for food crop cultivation, including 50 ha for intensive farming with two or three crops a year and an average annual rice output of 5-8 tons [metric] a hectare.

They have also put 44,730 ha under tea, cinnamon, pepper and cashew and afforested another 45,440 hectares.

They have built 2,694 small-sized irrigation projects and 44 hydro-electric stations in service of agricultural production and daily life.

Up to now, 40 per cent of them have gotten self-sufficient in food production and the rest still need assistance from the state.

National Symposium on Housing Policy Held

*BK1804073790 Hanoi VNA in English 0659 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 18—A national symposium on renovation of the housing policy was held here on April 17.

The symposium dealt with the burning questions relating to the distribution of dwelling houses to state cadres and working people, the rents and capital construction in urban and rural areas.

The participants deemed it necessary to renovate the housing policy by encouraging the people's investment in the construction of dwelling houses with the government's assistance and improving the state's housing fund and its housing management, especially the rental system.

Kerosene Imported To Control Price Increases

*BK1604093590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 15 Apr 90*

[Text] In the past two weeks, prices of kerosene have continued to increase throughout the country from 700 to 800 or 900 and, in certain localities, to as much as 1,000 dong per liter. This has happened because some localities have stopped using stamps, coupons, ration cards, and booklets, thus increasing the demand for kerosene. In many areas, kerosene was used exclusively for lighting purposes, but now it is used as a major source of fuel. In some areas of the southern provinces, kerosene has also been used for other purposes. Moreover, since the state-directed prices of kerosene differ from market prices, a false demand has been created in some provinces and municipalities. To overcome this situation, the kerosene company of the home trade sector in early April imported nearly 30,000 tonnes of kerosene from Zone 2. Counting the tens of thousands of tonnes of kerosene already ordered from Zone 1, the company will have a fairly large volume of kerosene in April and in the second quarter to fully meet the people's demands throughout the country.

Cooperation Plan Signed With Soviet Writers

*BK1704080690 Hanoi VNA in English 0700 GMT
17 Apr 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 17—A plan of cooperation for 1990 and the early part of 1991 was signed here yesterday by the Vietnamese and Soviet Writers' Associations.

Present at the signing ceremony on the Vietnamese side were Vu Tu Nam, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Writers' Association, and on the Soviet side, Surousev Iuri Ivanovik, secretary of the Soviet Writers' Association and head of the visiting Soviet writers' delegation.

Vo Nguyen Giap Attends Cuban Envoy's Reception

*BK1704153990 Hanoi VNA in English 1510 GMT
17 Apr 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 17—Cuban Ambassador to Vietnam Armando G. Saucedo Yero held here last Sunday [15 April] a reception of the 29th anniversary of Cuba's Giron Beach Victory (April 19).

Present at the reception were Vo Nguyen Giap, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and representatives of the CPV Central Committee's External Relations Commission, the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of National Defence and the Vietnam-Cuban Friendship Association.

The Cuban ambassador and the Vietnamese vice chairman expressed firm confidence that under the leadership of the Communist Party and the state headed by Fidel Castro Ruz, the Cuban people will defeat all wicked schemes and moves of imperialism to firmly protect socialist Cuba and make it a happy and prosperous country.

Zimbabwe's National Independence Day Marked

Leaders Send Greetings

*BK1704155590 Hanoi VNA in English 1520 GMT
17 Apr 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 17—Vietnamese leaders today extended their warmest greetings to President Robert Mugabe on the 10th Independence Day of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

In a joint message to President Robert Mugabe, who is also co-leader of the ZAPU-ZANU [Zimbabwe African People's Union-Zimbabwe African National Union] Patriotic Front, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Nguyen Van Linh and President of the State Council Vo Chi Cong wished the Zimbabwe people, under the leadership of the ZANU-PF [Patriotic Front] headed by President Robert Mugabe, new achievements in defending and building their prosperous country, thus contributing to the common struggle of the people in Southern Africa and in the world as a whole for national independence, peace and social progress. "May the solidarity and friendship between Vietnam and Zimbabwe further consolidate and develop," the message says.

NHAN DAN Marks Event

*BK1804075090 Hanoi VNA in English 0703 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 18—Marking the 10th independence day of the Republic of Zimbabwe (April 18), NHAN DAN today says that the coming into being of the independent Zimbabwe was an event of great historic significance which has over the past decade encouraged and accelerated the movement for national liberation and the struggle against racism in Southern Africa.

The paper goes on:

"The landslide victory of the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front in the recent elections of the national assembly and the republic's president has spelt out the Zimbabwean people's firm determination to follow their chosen path. In face of the world's present complicated situation, President Robert Mugabe has rejected the demand for a pluralist system in Zimbabwe. He said that a multiparty regime is not a panacea and that, for Zimbabwe, it may push the country into the brink of unrest and devastation.

"President Mugabe's government has over the recent years made active contributions to the non-aligned movement and the struggle against colonialism, imperialism and apartheid for national liberation in Southern Africa."

The paper also hails Zimbabwe's warm support for the three Indochinese countries' initiatives aimed at making Southeast Asia a region of peace, stability and development.

CPV Greets Communist Party of Spain Founding

*BK1704154390 Hanoi VNA in English 1518 GMT
17 Apr 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 17—The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) has sent its greetings to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Spain (CPS) on the occasion of the CPS's 70th founding anniversary.

In its message, the CPV Central Committee wished the CPS new successes in consolidating the unity of the Spanish communists and in leading the struggle of the working class and other labouring people of Spain for welfare, democracy, peace and social progress, thus contributing actively to the cause of peace, national independence, democracy and social progress in the world.

It also wished the traditional friendship and solidarity between the two parties and peoples constant consolidation and development.

Radio Reviews April Issue of Army Journal

*BK1704084590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2330 GMT 16 Apr 90*

[Summary] In its April 1990 issue, a special issue to commemorate the 15th anniversary of total victory in the anti-U.S. resistance for national salvation, TAP CHI QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN begins with an editorial "The Great Victory in the Anti-U.S. Resistance for National Salvation and Some Lessons for National Construction and Defense." "On the occasion of this anniversary, and with the aim of seeking a thorough understanding of the Central Committee's Resolution No. 8 on renovating the party's mass mobilization work, the journal has interviewed a number of party committee secretaries both in the north and south during the anti-U.S. resistance for national salvation under the theme: from the experience of motivating the entire people to engage in the anti-U.S. resistance for national salvation to the need to improve and strengthen relations between the party and people and step up the process of socialist construction and national defense."

"The journal carries the full text of its interviews with Comrade Nguyen Thi Dinh, member of the party Central Committee, president of the Vietnam Women's Union, and former secretary of the Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee; Comrade Haong Minh Thang, member of the party Central Committee, minister of trade, and former secretary of the Quang Nam-Danang Provincial Party Committee; Comrade Vo Duc Dong, former secretary of the Nghe An Provincial Party Committee; and Comrade Ngo Duy Dong, former secretary of the Thai Binh Provincial Party Committee." Found in the "research" section is Tran Trong's article entitled: "The Strategic Offensive of Imperialism To Oppose and Undermine Socialism." In this issue, the journal devotes an important portion of space to publishing articles on the experience in the anti-U.S. resistance for national salvation of our Army and people.

Marking Lenin's 120th birthday, 22 April 1870-22 April 1990, the journal introduces Colonel Nguyen Van Duc's article "Studying Lenin's Works Is the Duty of the Youth Union." "On the occasion of the 35th anniversary founding anniversary of the Vietnam People's Navy, 7 May 1955-7 May 1990, the journal carries an article entitled 'Build Up the Navy in Light of the New Situation' by the late Admiral Giap Van Cuong. On the occasion of the 45th founding anniversary of the Infantry Officers School No. 1, 15 April 1945-15 April 1990, the journal also carries an article by Major General Nguyen Ngoc Tien entitled 'The Infantry Officers School No. 1 Is Permeated With the Party's Practical Viewpoints in Training Officers.'" Finally, in the "Exchange of Opinion on the Efficiency of Party-building Task and Political Indoctrination in the Armed Forces" section, the journal presents the views expressed by Colonel Nguyen Doan Thap, General Rear Service Department, on party and political tasks in army units responsible for economic work.

Australia

Costello To Resume Cambodian Peace Efforts

BK1704135690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1336 GMT
17 Apr 90

[Text] Sydney, April 17 (AFP)—A senior Australian official will leave this week on a trip to Hanoi, Phnom Penh and Bangkok to resume efforts to promote Canberra's peace plan for Cambodia, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday [17 April].

The journey by Michael Costello, deputy secretary in the Foreign Affairs Department, will be Australia's first major effort to make progress on the plan since regional talks in Jakarta ended February in a stalemate.

The spokesman said Mr. Costello would begin his tour on Friday and have talks with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk. He said the Australian envoy was also expected to see Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan, but the meeting was not yet confirmed.

Mr. Costello's swing was to end Tuesday, April 24.

The spokesman described the visits as a continuation of consultations on Australia's proposal for an interim U.N. administration in Cambodia pending free elections. "It's the next round in the talks exploring the various ways of trying to get a resolution of the complex problems in Cambodia," he said. An Australian diplomat in Bangkok said Mr. Costello would "continue his discussions on the question of a United Nations role in a peace process."

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans unveiled in November his solution to the Cambodian conflict, which pits a coalition of the Marxist Khmer Rouge and two non-communist factions against the Phnom Penh government installed by Hanoi in 1979.

In December and January, Mr. Costello had two rounds of talks with regional leaders and representatives of the U.N. Security Council's permanent members—Britain, China, France, Soviet Union and the United States.

All four Cambodian warring factions have accepted a U.N. role, while differing largely on the nature and extent of that role.

The Jakarta meeting in late February broke down with opposing sides unable to narrow their differences. The meeting brought together the Cambodian factions, Vietnam, Laos, France and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which joins Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Diplomats in Bangkok said Mr. Costello was to have his meetings with Mr. Chatchai and Prince Sihanouk, Cambodia's former monarch, in the Thai capital next

Tuesday. The date for the meeting with Prince Sihanouk was confirmed by the prince's office in Bangkok.

Prince Sihanouk, currently staying in the guerrilla-controlled northwestern Cambodian village of Sereipheap, just across from Thailand's border province of Surin, was to travel to China on Wednesday, his office said.

New Zealand

Lange Suggests Withdrawal From ANZUS Council

BK1804095890 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0803 GMT 18 Apr 90

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] The former New Zealand prime minister [and current attorney general], David Lange, has suggested that his country should formally withdraw from the Council of ANZUS—the defense treaty which it shares with Australia and the United States. Mr. Lange says New Zealand's relations with Washington would actually improve if Wellington withdrew from the treaty council.

His comments have come on the eve of a private visit to the United States and at a time when relations between Washington and Wellington are thought to be improving. But, Mr. Lange has told our reporter, Steve Sailer, that New Zealand is being badly treated as an American ally.

[Begin recording] [Lange] We are constantly being treated by the United States as an ally, but they require a different standard of conduct from allies than they may require from friends. We have the extraordinary situation this week where President Bush has seen Geoffrey Henry, the premier of the Cook Islands, in Washington. He will not see the prime minister, Geoffrey Palmer, of New Zealand in Washington, but he will see the premier of the Cook Islands—a country for which New Zealand has responsibility for foreign policy. So you get very silly sorts of situations, really.

The next reason for it is that the National Party of New Zealand has wholeheartedly embraced the Labor government's antinuclear policy, at least they say so for electoral purposes. But the leader of the opposition is reported to have seen Geoffrey Howe in London this week and said that Sir Geoffrey felt quite comfortable with the National Party's position on the ANZUS relationship. Actually, he meant that he has told Sir Geoffrey something quite different from what he has told the New Zealand electorate. And if we were to give 12 months notice for withdrawal from ANZUS, we would be able to test the resolve of the National Party to be genuinely antinuclear.

At the moment, they are pretending to be. If they continue [words indistinct] withdraw from the ANZUS Council, we will know that they meant it. ANZUS, I

repeat, cannot be disbanded by the United States or any member. The treaty would continue to be the basis of the defense relationship between Australia and the United States.

[Sailer] But how would the actual New Zealand relationship with the United States improve if President Bush were to see a New Zealand withdrawal from the council as just another slap in the mouth of the United States?

[Lange] [Words indistinct] the United States are not allowed in the same room. (?If I) come back to what our alliance is about, under the United States view of (?alliance) management, all countries in the alliance have to do exactly what the big country says. It is, therefore, possible for the United States to have a good and burgeoning relationship with a variety of countries, and you have varying forms of Marxist regimes, you have very early contact with the Chinese Government post-Tiananmen Square, [words indistinct] which are actually quite constructive internationally because they are not allied with them. But when you are in an alliance, you cannot buck what the United States thinks should be the way you should behave (?and react). [end recording]

Niue

Veteran Premier Robert Rex Reelected

BK1304044090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0437 GMT
13 Apr 90

[Text] Auckland, New Zealand, April 13 (AFP)—The South Pacific's longest serving head of government, Niue's Premier Sir Robert Rex, was re-elected Friday [13 April] to office.

In a vote in the Legislative Assembly he defeated veteran rival Young Vivian by 12 votes to eight, Niue Government officials said. It was the first sitting of the assembly since general elections on April 7.

Soon after the general elections, Mr. Vivian in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE claimed he had the numbers to take the vote. But Niue has no political parties and loyalties can readily be swayed in the heavy lobbying which follows an election.

Mr. Vivian, a former secretary general of the South Pacific Commission, leads a group of eight MPs [members of Parliament] who call themselves "the action team."

Sir Robert, 81, has led Niue since 1966 and has been premier since 1974 when the island attained the status of "self government in free association with New Zealand."

The single island, 2,000 kilometres northeast of here, lacks regular air and shipping links and is home to 1,800 people while 8,000 Niueans live in New Zealand. Niue, along with Samoa and Tokelau, was devastated by Cyclone Ofa in February.

Papua New Guinea

Government To Close Four Overseas Missions

BK1804042690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0405 GMT
14 Apr 90

[Text] Port Moresby, April 18 (AFP)—Papua New Guinea plans to close four overseas missions as cost-cutting measures brought on by the Bougainville crisis, government officials said Wednesday [18 April].

Three government departments would also be abolished as part of the Namaliu administration's efforts to prune spending by 100 million kina (U.S. dollars), the officials said. They said cabinet already had approved the closing of the country's missions in Suva, Manila, Beijing and Bonn. Papua New Guinea has a total of 12 overseas missions.

The changes, expected to be announced shortly, followed a major review by a top level committee headed by Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu. Mr. Namaliu instigated the review after militants on Bougainville Island last year shut down the giant Bougainville Copper Ltd. mine, which was responsible for nearly a fifth of total government revenue.

The officials said the provincial affairs and administrative services departments would be axed while finance and planning would be split into two separate departments. They said a number of state-controlled corporations and organisations would be privatised or commercialised. These included the Niugini Insurance Corporation, National Statistics Office, Government Printing Office and the National Computer Centre. The government would also sell off its shares in three forestry companies. Also to be abolished are the Ministerial Committee on Law and Order, the Law Reform Commission, Teaching Services Commission and the Sydney Supply Office.